

No 61,168

Preview

Today's 16-page entertainment guide Preview offers a glimpse of the new musical *Gyps and Dolls*—plus what is best in films, television drama and a guide to weekends away.

Fraser quits Harrods group

Sir Hugh Fraser resigned yesterday as a director of the House of Fraser, Britain's largest store group, from which he was dismissed as chairman more than a year ago. His move to leave the group, which owns Harrods and was built up by his father, is said to have stunned fellow directors, many of whom he appointed, but who wanted him out as chairman last January.

Sir Hugh played a key role in the boardroom manoeuvres that eventually led to a takeover bid from the trading conglomerate Lloyds, headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, which was thwarted after a Monopolies Commission investigation.

Business News, page 15

MPs' salvo on Invincible

Conservative MPs criticized yesterday the *Invincible*, one of the Royal Navy's most powerful ships, to Australia at a "knock-down" price of £175m. In Melbourne the Labour Opposition threatened to seize the carrier if it returned to power.

Back page
Sea change, page 4

Profits rise but ICI is gloomy

ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturing group, which is an acknowledged indicator of industry's health, said that it could see little evidence of better times ahead despite a £51m rise in its profits last year.

Page 15

Reagan rethinks nuclear cuts

The Reagan Administration is working on a radical proposal for substantial reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, say American officials in Washington.

£20,000 award to J. P. R. Williams

J. P. R. Williams, the Welsh rugby player, has been awarded £20,000 in libel damages in the High Court. He sued *The Daily Telegraph*, Mr William Deedes, the editor, and Mr John Reason, the newspaper's former rugby correspondent, over articles "branding him a 'shamateur'".

Rees-Mogg to be arts chairman

Sir William Rees-Mogg, vice-chairman of the BBC and former editor of *The Times*, is to be the next chairman of the Arts Council in succession to Mr Kenneth Robinson, who completes five years as chairman next month.

Hull City are up for sale

Hull City, unable to stem losses of £9,000 a week, have called in a receiver and will be put up for sale. It is hoped that the fourth division club will be bought as a going concern.

Page 19

Leader page 11

Letters: On TV by satellite, from Mr George Howard, and Mr Norman Collins; industry loans plan, from Mr Leslie Priestley; Oxford, from Dr Brian Thwaites. Leading articles: Soviet grain; BBC; caning children. Features: page 10 the Labour Party's phoney peace; how the investigative reporter has turned from hero to villain. Obituaries: page 12 Mr Nikolay Andreyev, Mr George Savage. Entertainment guide, page 13

Home News 2-4	Motoring 21
Overseas 5, 6, 8	Parliament 12
Arts 12	Sale Room 12
Science 2	Science 2
Business 14-19	Snow reports 20
Chess 12	Sport 19-21
Court 12	TV & Radio 23
Cricket 12	Universities 12
Diary 10	Weather 23
Lure Report 23	Wills 23
Lure cartoon 6	

Parents win right to ban school beatings

By Lucy Hodges

British parents have the right to refuse to allow their children to be beaten at school, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in Strasbourg yesterday.

In a judgment which will have far-reaching effects in British schools, and could herald the end of corporal punishment in this country, the judges decided by six votes to one that the United Kingdom had broken the European Convention on Human Rights.

This is the eighth time the court has found this country in breach of the convention. The decision, from which Sir Vincent Evans, the British judge, dissented, was greeted yesterday with a marked lack of enthusiasm by the teachers' unions. Those campaigning for abolition of the cane were exultant and the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), said it was writing to the Government immediately to ask for beating to be banned.

Mr Tom Scott, education secretary of Stopp, said he thought the verdict would deal a death blow to corporal punishment. "This is the best day in the 14-year history of Stopp," he said. "We are absolutely delighted. It is a tremendous day also for children, parents, teachers and society as a whole, because corporal punishment is not only nasty and humiliating, it is counter-productive."

"This judgment will remove fear from the education system. Schools are going to be better places, better for teachers and for children."

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the decision would put heads in a difficult position in which some parents would not opt for their children not to be beaten and others would not. "This could undermine the sanction," he said.

"Whether you are talking about corporal punishment or any other sanction, you cannot have one section of pupils who may be subject to punishment and another section who cannot be punished." The judgment did not ban caning, he said.

Strasbourg judgment, page 2
Leading article, page 11

Directors support Murdoch job cuts

By Donald Macintyre

The 12-member board of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd (TNHL) yesterday gave full backing to the cost-cutting measures proposed by Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* to reduce manning at both newspapers.

The TNHL statement issued after a two-hour meeting said the board had "unanimously supported the steps being taken by Mr Murdoch and management to resolve the Times Group's industrial problems". It had also unanimously agreed that "consideration of all other matters be deferred until the resolution of those problems".

This was taken to mean that the board, which includes the five independent non-executive directors, had deferred a decision of the transfer of the newspapers' titles to News International, the parent company, until the present crisis is resolved. However, the management declined to elaborate on its statement.

The company also announced last night that it had reached agreement with two groups of machine room employees, as Mr Murdoch repeated his call for fresh volunteers for redundancy in a personal letter sent to the homes of clerical employees. Applications, which he guaranteed would remain

confidential, should be sent in by March 3.

The TNHL statement said that there were two major requirements for continuing production of the two newspapers. These were to bring about adequate reductions in manning and the need for the "continuing financial support of News International".

It appeared that for the time being the title would remain in the Times Newspapers Ltd, the company which publishes both newspapers. They were transferred to the ownership of News International Ltd, the parent company in December and switched back again to TNHL last week.

The company's progress towards ending 500 shifts was assisted yesterday by agreement with the National Society of Operative Printers (Naropa) and Media Personnel (Naropa) on the reduction of a total of 168 shifts in the *Sunday Times* machine room and the *Times* newspaper day chapel.

Mr Kenneth Ashton, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, yesterday said his union could not "endorse the concept of compulsory redundancies whether they be issued to journalists or fellow trade unionists".

'Intimidation' row, page 2

Amersham may be last state bonanza

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

The Government, embarrassed by the heavy over-subscription for shares in Amersham International and the anger of the Opposition in Parliament, is to consider selling state-owned companies by tender in future, so as to realize their full value.

This was conceded with evident reluctance by the Prime Minister in the Commons yesterday under heavy pressure from Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, who said it was a scandal that State assets should be put on the market and sold at knock-down prices.

Mr Foot added, to Labour cheers and Conservative protests, that some of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's advisers who gave wrong advice on the sale of the shares had made "at least a million pounds out of it".

Particulars of the offer for sale of Amersham, a highly successful company which makes radioactive isotopes for medical and industrial uses, show that the two merchant banks which handled the sale, N.M. Rothschild and Sons and Morgan Grenfell and Co, are to receive fees of £1,155,000 from the Secretary of State for Energy and £132,000 from the company, from which they pay underwriting commission and fees to brokers.

The Labour Party, hostile from the start to the sale of Amersham, is indignant that the selling of so low a price for the shares has resulted in an apparent loss to the taxpayer of up to £20m.

Mr Foot pressed Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, for a debate because of "gross injury to the national credit" and to ensure that the same thing did not happen again, particularly when the oil exploration and production business of the British National Oil Corporation comes to be marketed, under the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill now before Parliament. This will be the biggest sale of public assets to the private sector.

The offer for sale at 142p per share of 50 million ordinary shares of 25p, of which 44,860,000 belonged to the Government, was subscribed last night 24 times by applicants from Amersham employees, who were offered special terms, and by the public.

Ministers are more sensitive to the charge of mis-handling the sale than they care to show publicly. Mr Amersham International's Stock Market debut turned out to be one for the record book yesterday. The company was last night valued at £94.5m—£23.5m above the Government's sale price (Our Financial Staff writes).

The trading floor was opened 10 minutes earlier to allow dealers to form the usual scrum.

By the close of business last night, the estimated value of the original 50 million shares had changed hands.

Dr Stuart Burgess, the group's managing director and chief executive, who was in the city to launch the company, commented on his reaction to the jump in share price. He said he would not be selling any of his 2,500 shares.

The premium achieved by Amersham far exceeds any of the Government's other recent sell-offs. British Aerospace, which came to market last February, opened with a premium of 25p over the offer price of 175p and Cable & Wireless could only muster a 30p premium over the offer price of 168p.

A Rothschild spokesman said last night (the Press Association reports): "It is easy to judge with hindsight. With the benefit of hindsight one can say that the price was too low."

"It is irrefutable that, on the evidence we have today, the issue could have been done at a higher price."

But he added: "At the time, the price, if anything, appeared to be a little reckless."

Diagnosis for success, page 15

Scourge of husbands, saviour of animals



Mr James Dorling, aged 60, who retires today as High Court Tipstaff in London. During his 17 years in the job he has restored scores of missing children to their parents, arrested hundreds of wife-beaters, tracked down a cat used in a television commercial and taken charge of circus animals.

New Begin tirade against Schmidt

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb 25

Diplomatic relations between Israel and West Germany suffered another serious blow today when Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, launched his second vitriolic personal attack in less than a year against Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and his war record.

Mr Begin issued a statement refusing to apologize to Herr Schmidt for comments he made about him during the Israeli election campaign in May.

"I will not apologize to Mr Schmidt. Rather, I counsel him speaking as a free man to the Jewish people, that he take an example from his predecessor, Mr Brandt, visit Warsaw, go to the site where, once stood, so long ago, his knees and ask the forgiveness of the Jewish people."

Mr Begin urged Herr Schmidt to seek forgiveness from "all nations loving justice and liberty for what his countrymen perpetrated under the National Socialist regime against my people at the time when Mr Schmidt remained faithful to the personal path he had given to Adolf Hitler, as a soldier and officer in his army."

The outburst was prompted by a report in the Hebrew newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth*, which quoted Herr Schmidt as saying that Mr Begin must apologize for his remarks last May, or he would not visit Israel.

[This was denied by Bonn, whose spokesman said the report was "a pure product of fantasy."—*Reuters*]

The original attack was made after Herr Schmidt was reported to have said during a visit to Saudi Arabia that West

Germany had an obligation to the Arabs.

Today Mr Begin said: "Mr Schmidt mentioned Auschwitz and said that he acknowledged the obligation of Germany towards a number of peoples—but the Jewish people was not listed amongst them. Mr Schmidt spoke of Germany's obligation towards the Palestinians and said not a word of Germany's obligation towards the Jewish people."

"I said in a speech that according to a report I got, Mr Schmidt, as a lieutenant in Hitler's army, was among the viewers of a film showing the hanging by piano wire of German officers who had rebelled against the National Socialist regime."

Mr Begin said that although it had subsequently been pointed out to him that Herr Schmidt had not participated in the screening of the film, he had been invited to and participated in "a trial presided over by the infamous Nazi judge Freier."

"I will not hesitate to admit the error concerning the film. However, participation in the above-mentioned Nazi trial is of itself a most grave event in the biography of one of the tens of thousands of German officers during the Holocaust."

Others who have felt the lash of Mr Begin's tongue include the former French President, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who was accused with Herr Schmidt of "unbridled greed and hypocrisy" in dealings with the Arabs.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Ian Gilmour, then his deputy, were described last year as "no friends of Israel". On Sir Ian, Mr Begin added: "He is not only an anti-Zionist, he has negative feelings which go much deeper—I don't want to use other words."

Media accused, page 8

Car workers asked to take pay cut

By Rupert Morris

Workers at Aston Martin Lagonda's plant at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, have been asked to make a wage cut to enable the luxury sports-car maker to achieve financial stability. Their average pay is £145 a week.

Aston Martin has a history of financial problems since 1975 when, with government help, it was rescued by a consortium.

Mr Tony Penman, chairman of the works committee, confirmed that wage cuts had been suggested, but was reluctant to give details.

Both he and the company denied reports that workers had been told that the company would face closure if the workforce did not agree to wage cuts of as much as £50 for each worker.

Continued on back page, col 5

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New lorry weight limits expected to be modified

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, is expected to announce next month that he has dropped his proposals to increase maximum lorry weights to 40 tonnes and to allow four-axle articulated vehicles to run at 34 tonnes instead of the present maximum of 32.5 tonnes.

Instead, he is likely to ask for a maximum weight, for five axle vehicles, of 38 tonnes.

The expected concessions come after consultations between Mr Howell and officers of the Conservative backbench transport committee, since the revolt by Tory MPs in December against his White Paper.

It became apparent then that the proposals as they stood, would not get through the Commons. The transport committee officers have been pressing a number of compromises on Mr Howell in an attempt to make his package more palatable to backbench opinion.

One option put forward was for the 40-tonne lorry to be allowed, but that two of the five axles should be driven. Another, the one Mr Howell is now expected to accept, was that the maximum weight should be 38 tonnes with only one of the five axles driven. A third was for 38-tonne lorries, with two axles driven. Tests have proved that with two axles being driven there is less road damage.

The Conservative critics have told Mr Howell that his proposal to allow four-axle lorries to run at 34 tonnes would be unlikely to get through, because of the greater road damage they say it would cause.

Mr Howell has been trying to mollify his critics with a series of measures, including the announcement of eight new by-passes being added or restored to the Government's trunk road programme.

Russians turn to Argentina

By Our Foreign Staff

The big shortfall in the Soviet harvest for the third year running has led the Russians to make massive purchases of Argentine grain, the first since the Soviet trade balance with the Third World as a whole into deficit for the first time recorded.

The latest available Soviet statistics for the first nine months of 1981, show that imports from Argentina had more than doubled compared with the similar period of 1980. But the pattern of massive grain purchases has continued into this year.

This is part of the widening circle of effects now being caused by the Soviet failure to grow enough food. Western experts have also noted a slow-down in the completion of Soviet contracts for expected technology and consumer goods projects, particularly with West Germany and France, as the Soviet Union seeks to conserve vital foreign currency to buy grain.

Another sign of the Russians' acute need for hard currency

and other key imports is their significant selling of gold, diamonds and oil at a time when world prices have been falling.

In the first nine months of 1981, official Soviet figures show imports from Argentina of 2,068m roubles (about £1,420m). Moscow buys meat and grain makes up the bulk of sales. For the corresponding period of 1980, Russian imports from the same country were valued at only 891m roubles.

Recently published figures show that, from January to September, 1981, Soviet exports to the developing nations were 6,100m roubles, but imports exceeded that at 6,300m roubles. In the similar period for 1980, the reverse was true, with exports at 4,600m roubles and imports at 3,800m roubles. Experts believe that the changed pattern is explained by the surge in purchases from Argentina.

The Soviet Communist Party is expected to give the total figures for the 1981 harvest at

the special agricultural plenum expected to be held in April, the first for four years.

ABU, reliable Soviet sources have been "telling" Western correspondents in Moscow that the harvest last year was 170 million tonnes, 66 million tonnes below the target. This figure is not as bad as some Western forecasts suggested.

In another move, which has taken American trade officials by surprise, the Soviet Union has suddenly resumed big purchases of United States grain after a gap of several months—and the officials believe that further purchases may be made.

President Reagan has said he will not reintroduce a grain embargo except in the extreme circumstances of a general embargo against the Soviet Union. However, the present low prices are an expression of fears in the market that the Administration eventually will have to use the "grain weapon".

Leading article, page 11

NEWS IN SUMMARY

BR talks go to next stage

British Rail and two of the railway unions yesterday formally agreed to enter negotiations about flexible rostering. They will now move to the next stage in the timetable of talks laid down by the McCarthy inquiry.

All three rail unions will meet British Rail next week, probably on Monday under the auspices of the Railways Staff National Council. If there is again no agreement, as seems likely, the issue of rostering will go next month to the Railway Staff National Tribunal, also headed by Lord McCarthy.

The meeting yesterday of the Railways Staff National Council lasted barely 30 minutes. Mr Raymond Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) said as he left the meeting that there could be no agreement because British Rail's proposals for flexible rostering of the guaranteed eight-hour day, which Aslef has said it regards as sacrosanct.

A strike by guards at South-east severely disrupted services to and from Liverpool Street, in the Eastern Region, yesterday.

Burnet top TV journalist

Alastair Burnet, of Independent Television News, was the winner of the top award for television journalism in the annual awards announced in London last night by the Royal Television Society.

A second ITN man, Jon Snow, is named as winner of the international news category for his reports from El Salvador and Tim Sebastian, of the BBC, becomes television journalist of the year for his work in Poland.

Kate Adey accepted the award presented to BBC News for its coverage of the Guinness famine in Northern Ireland. (Home), ATV's "Silent Majority", which has been a major success story since its launch in 1979, was named as the best current affairs programme. The award for best news programme went to the BBC's "Look North West".

'Resign' call to Lady Simey

Merseyside police yesterday demanded the resignation of Lady Simey, aged 76, chairman of the county's police committee, after her allegations to a Commons select committee on Wednesday of police intimidation and victimisation of complainants.

Mr Fred Jones, chairman of the county's police federation, said that the police were "not intimidated" by her. "It was a unanimous decision. We feel we can no longer work with her."

Soldier on glue sniffing charge

A soldier believed to be the first to be charged under military law with sniffing glue appeared at a court martial at Bulford Camp, Wiltshire, yesterday.

Royal Artillery gunner Stephen Beckwith was said to have been found guilty of sniffing glue and of being incoherent over a tin of powerful solvent while on leave from the Second Field Regiment, based at Larkhill, Salisbury Plain. Beckwith pleads not guilty to contravening the Army Act which conducts prejudicial to good order.

The hearing continues today.

Leaflets attack Hitler play

Leaflets attacking *The Portage to San Cristobal*, the new play about Hitler at the Mermaid Theatre, in London, accusing it of encouraging antisemitism and defending Hitler's persecution of the Jews, have been handed to the theatre's management for distribution to the public.

The leaflets reproduce an article in today's *Jewish Chronicle*, written by Mr Martin Gilbert, the historian.

Bus revenue cuts rate rise

An increase in the use of West Yorkshire buses enabled the county council yesterday to announce a cut in its proposed rate from 46.8p recommended in January, to 44.5p, an increase of 18.4 per cent over 1981-82.

Peterborough, accused of overmanning and wasteful spending, is cutting its rates by 20 per cent. But the reduction of 7p will be offset by a 6p increase from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Humbly Grove County Council has approved a rate of 153p, an increase of 43 per cent.

'No' to Civil Service offer

An attempt by the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, to press for the removal of the chairman of the Civil Service arbitration tribunal, Mr David Calcutt, QC, was defeated yesterday at a meeting of the nine unions in the service.

The Council of Civil Service Unions, the umbrella body which represents 520,000 white-collar employees, also rejected the Government's "market forces" pay offer, which ranges from no increase to 5.5 per cent. The offer will now go to arbitration.

Haughey retains leadership as challenge fails

From Richard Ford, Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey was unanimously elected as Fianna Fail candidate for the Irish premiership at yesterday's meeting of the parliamentary party, which saw the challenge to his position collapse amid calls for unity.

The end of Mr Desmond O'Malley's leadership challenge came half way through the meeting, only hours after he had announced formally that he would stand.

Mr O'Malley, a former Cabinet minister, withdrew his name after the party's 81 MPs had heard senior figures urge that nothing should be done which would undermine Fianna Fail's chances of forming the republic's next minority government.

Yesterday's events brought a rare intervention from Mr James Lynch, the former Fianna Fail leader, who resigned in 1979 after backbench plots which eventually gave Mr Haughey the leadership.

Mr Lynch said Mr O'Malley had been right to let his name go forward in the light of "genuine requests" from party members for a change of leadership.

The statement was interpreted last night as an attempt by Mr Lynch to rally party members demoralized by yesterday's events.

After the vote in Leinster House an elated Mr Haughey said he had never worried about the challenge.

But the criticism will continue and he still must win independent support if Fianna Fail is to form the next government on March 9.

The collapse of the attempt to oust Mr Haughey is a serious blow to Mr O'Malley, who yesterday announced his decision to stand after four days of speculation. Most serious is his withdrawal of the challenge less than 12 hours after publicly throwing down the gauntlet.

The Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services yesterday received an official public rebuke for failing to exercise effective financial control over four regional boards which last year spent more than £447m (Anthony Bevin writes).

A White Paper summary of accounts for 1980-81, published yesterday, carried a report from Mr Denis Calvert, the Comptroller and Auditor General, pointing out that seven separate criticisms had been made.

Weaknesses included stores control, with disparities between actual stocks and computer records; a high incidence of overtime and salary overpayments; delays in recovering considerable amounts due from staff for medical, private functions and telephone calls; the free issue of foodstuffs to staff and others; "serious shortcomings in the procedures for granting of loans to staff"; and a lack of action in identifying the amount of public funding for a sports club.

The White Paper said the department regarded the general standard of financial control as reasonably satisfactory, and that weaknesses would be followed up.

But Mr Calvert said: "I have noted that several of these matters were also mentioned in the appointed auditor's reports for previous years, so that the department's follow-up has not always been effective."

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Personal beliefs on caning upheld

Summary of the judgment by the European Court of Human Rights on corporal punishment (applicants: Mrs Grace Campbell and Mrs Jane Cosans).

Second sentence of article 2 of Protocol No 1.

1. The court recalled that a contracting state is bound to respect parents' philosophical convictions in the exercise of each and every function which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching. Conversely, the state has the duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

2. The expression, "philosophical convictions", was not, in the court's view, capable of exhaustive definition but, in the context of article 2, it denoted views which attained a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance, were worthy of respect in a democratic society, were not incompatible with human dignity and, in addition, they must not conflict with the fundamental right of the child to education. The court had also to take into account the state's duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

3. The court rejected the Government's plea that the policy of moving gradually towards the abolition of corporal punishment was in itself sufficient to comply with the duty to "respect philosophical convictions".

The court also did not regard it as established that any contracting state was under a duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

4. The court accordingly concluded, by six votes to one, that both applicants had been victims of a violation of the second sentence of Article 2.

5. The court, which did not in any way intend to undermine the integrity of the person, the propriety or otherwise of the infliction of corporal punishment and the exclusion of the discipline which the risk of such punishment entails. They are views which satisfy each of the various criteria listed above; it is this that distinguishes them from opinions that might be held on other methods of discipline or on discipline in general.

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Strasbourg judgment extracts



Difference of opinion: Sir Vincent Evans, who dissented from the Strasbourg verdict, and Mrs Grace Campbell, one of the mothers who brought the case.

judgment of August 13, 1981, series A, No 44 p25, para 63) and are not incompatible with human dignity; in addition, they must not conflict with the fundamental right of the child to education. The court had also to take into account the state's duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

2. The expression, "philosophical convictions", was not, in the court's view, capable of exhaustive definition but, in the context of article 2, it denoted views which attained a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance, were worthy of respect in a democratic society, were not incompatible with human dignity and, in addition, they must not conflict with the fundamental right of the child to education. The court had also to take into account the state's duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

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The court also did not regard it as established that any contracting state was under a duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

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Science report

Two minds in a single brain

By the Staff of "Nature"

An ingenious adaptation of a children's guessing game has been used to show that in a split-brain patient—a person with the main connection between the right and left halves of the brain cut in a treatment for epilepsy—the two halves of the brain could play against one another as though they were separate competitors.

But Professor Donald Mackay and his wife, Mrs Valerie Mackay, of Keele University, who devised the test, concluded that at the level at which "free will" might be said to act there is no evidence of "two wills" even in a person with separated hemispheres.

When the game was varied so that the halves might have been expected to be in conflict over how much one side of the brain should pay the other for winning, the two sides showed no desire to argue; at that level the two halves, again acted as one whole.

In the guessing game the experimenters first showed the right hand side of the brain a number between 0 and 9 without letting the left side know the number. That was done by flashing the number to the left of where the patient is looking; because the right hand side of the brain controls and receives sensations from only the left hand side of the body (and vice versa), the number is seen by only the right hemisphere. (In a normal person, of course, the information is passed on to the left hemisphere through their interconnections.)

Next the left hemisphere was asked to guess the number. That too was done because the left hemisphere contains the speech centres and can make the guess orally. The right hand side can hear the guess, as both sides of the brain are connected to both ears, but cannot say orally whether the guess is right or wrong because it has no control over speech.

Instead the experimenters arranged for it to reply by a series of "yes" or "no" answers to questions printed on a card. When the guess was too low it pointed to "go up", when the guess was too high, to "go down". When the left hemisphere finally guessed the number, the right hemisphere answered the question by "OK". The two hemispheres played the game happily, almost as though they were two separate people.

The Mackays then introduced a new element to the game to see if they could produce a conflict to indicate that the two sides really had separate "wills". Now, each time the right hemisphere's hand pointed to one of the messages the left hemisphere's hand had to pay for the information by passing some of its limited supply of tokens over to the left hand. When the left hemisphere finally guessed correctly it received a fresh supply of tokens from the experimenters.

When the game was varied, when the left hemisphere was arranged to pay as much as three tokens for each piece of information it rapidly became bankrupt, leaving the right hemisphere the winner. The experimenters then asked the critical question: would the right hemisphere settle for only two tokens for answering each guess, thereby giving the left hemisphere a better chance. If the two halves of the brain were really separate entities, they should have been in conflict.

The left hemisphere would be expected to demand no reduction in payment for its information, while the right would be expected to want to pay less for them. However, no such quality of will appeared; the two halves refused to bargain with each other. The right hemisphere indicated its willingness to accept only two tokens by pointing.

At exactly the same moment the left hemisphere agreed by saying "Sure". The right hemisphere followed that up by addressing the experimenters with what must surely be the last word on the subject: "Are you guys trying to make two people out of me?"

Source: *Nature* Vol 295, page 690 (25 Feb), 1982.
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'THINK TANK' CHIEF TO LEAVE

Mr Robin Tibbs, the head of the Central Policy Review Staff, is leaving Whitehall to return to ICI as a director on April 1.

Mr Tibbs was seconded to the CPFRS, the Government's "think tank", in 1979. Since then it has concentrated on industrial matters and its report on nationalised industries is being considered by the Government.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$ 2.50; Belgium 2.50; Canada 2.50; Denmark 2.50; France 2.50; Germany 2.50; Greece 2.50; Ireland 2.50; Italy 2.50; Japan 2.50; Korea 2.50; Luxembourg 2.50; Netherlands 2.50; New Zealand 2.50; Norway 2.50; Portugal 2.50; Spain 2.50; Sweden 2.50; Switzerland 2.50; Taiwan 2.50; Thailand 2.50; United Kingdom 2.50; United States 2.50; West Germany 2.50; Yugoslavia 2.50.

Leading article, page 11

The British judge's voice of dissent

The following views are extracts from the dissenting opinion of Sir Vincent Evans, the British judge.

1. The court recalled that a contracting state is bound to respect parents' philosophical convictions in the exercise of each and every function which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching. Conversely, the state has the duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

2. The expression, "philosophical convictions", was not, in the court's view, capable of exhaustive definition but, in the context of article 2, it denoted views which attained a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance, were worthy of respect in a democratic society, were not incompatible with human dignity and, in addition, they must not conflict with the fundamental right of the child to education. The court had also to take into account the state's duty to ensure that the child receives an education, the content of which is not in conflict with the functions assumed by the state, which had undertaken responsibility for formulating general educational policy, extended to questions of discipline in general, discipline being an integral part of any educational system.

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SDP sets out policy for May elections

By Ian Bradley

Social Democrat councils elected next May would sell council houses to tenants, support subsidised public transport and oppose the Government's scheme to provide assisted places in independent schools.

Those are among the main points in a framework programme prepared by the party's policy department. A document setting out the main principles on which SDP candidates will fight the elections has been circulated to area parties.

It lists seven basic principles for policy formation; improving the quality of public services within the limits of available resources, breaking down social divisions and promoting equal opportunities, handing power back to the people, creating an open multicultural society, giving special attention to disadvantaged groups, putting Britain back to work, and protecting the environment.

Although there are very few references in the document to the Liberal Party, there is no doubt that it borrows heavily on the community politics ideas of the SDP's alliance partner, and specifically on the work of the Association of Liberal Councilors.

On education, it commits SDP councils to firm support of the comprehensive principle and opposition to "place buying in independent schools as an ideological weapon".

On housing, it says that

Fix end to Concorde cash, MPs urge

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

The Government should fix a date to end support for Concorde, at present about £20m a year, MPs of the all-party Commons Trade and Industry Committee said yesterday.

Meanwhile they want more determined action by the Government to balance British and French contributions to the aircraft.

The Department of Industry and Trade estimated last year that between 1976 and 1983 Britain's support costs would be £238m, or 58.6 per cent, while those of France would be £176.6m or 41.4 per cent, although the treaty required equal cost-sharing.

The committee while welcoming reduced costs for Concorde announced by the department in December, say "much more effort still needs to be made to ensure that the British taxpayer does not have to provide more money; a firmer hand is required".



Members of PEN, the international association of writers, demonstrating outside the Polish Embassy in London yesterday. They delivered a petition demanding the release of writers imprisoned in Poland. (Left to right): Sir Victor Fritchett, Lady Antonia Pinter, Sir Angus Wilson, Mr Francis King, Mr Harold Pinter and Mr Stephen Spender.

Wormwood Scrubs run by the staff for months, MP says

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Wormwood Scrubs prison, not staying in the country when local children, including those in the prison, suffered from government education cuts.

Later that year Mrs Christine Bell won a two-year battle to teach sewing in Armley men's prison, Leeds, after complaining to the Parliamentary All-Party Affairs Group, said yesterday.

He described as "extraordinary" the way the Prison Officers' Association was allowed to go on a "long act of vengeance" after officers were sent in to quell a protest in 1976.

But the chairman of the association, Mr Colin Steel, said the officers at Wormwood Scrubs deserved praise, not blame, for the way they prevented a protest from developing into a riot of the kind that devastated Hull another top security prison, in 1976.

At Wormwood Scrubs there was minimal damage to buildings, the injuries to prisoners and officers were superficial, and the officers' actions afterwards were aimed at containment until control was properly reestablished.

With that in mind, he said, Albany Prison, on the Isle of Wight, was on an earlier closure locked up for six weeks after trouble there.

Increasing militancy by officers culminated in a national industrial dispute in 1979, which resulted in prisoners being held in police cells and other emergency accommodation.

As at Wormwood Scrubs, the dispute showed how much power the local branches of the POA have. And in Puckchurch, a Bristol remand centre, officers refused to show round a member of the Board of Visitors, Mr Rodney Morgan, though he and other members are appointed as public watchdogs.

He accused the association of a "gross abuse of power". The association in turn accused him of undermining discipline.

In 1980 prison officers at Ashford Remand Centre banned education classes for people held pending deportation.

An official of the local branch said members did not see why free education should be provided for people

The use of psychologists and welfare officers has made prison officers fearful that their job will be reduced to that of a turnkey.

At the same time the old hierarchical discipline has been undermined as the supply of recruits from the Services has dried up, to be replaced by more officers with industrial experience, who respond as trade unionists.

There has been growing pressure within the Prison Department to turn governors into "managers" and at one stage a plan was being discussed to do away with the jobs of the tribal elders of the service, the top Chief Officers the equivalent of regimental sergeants-major.

Mr Brendan O'Neil, chairman of the governing branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said that the theme running through the Wormwood Scrubs report was the difficulty of equating two approaches to staff relations: one of consultation, the other of giving orders.

At some stage orders had to be given and obeyed. "We are in the middle because we don't know what the boundaries are."

Mr Kilroy-Silk said: "The POA could be a most positive and powerful force for reform of the prison system. If they chose to use their power constructively they could provide an environment more stimulating and satisfying with a well defined professional role; whereas at the moment they tend to use their power negatively and destructively."

Young are 'aged' to make room

Young offenders are being reclassified as adults and removed to adult penal establishments in order to relieve overcrowding in juvenile establishments. Mr Kilroy-Silk said yesterday (Francis Gibb writes).

He told other MPs examining the Criminal Justice Bill in committee that the Magistrates' Association had expressed concern that the law which allowed juveniles to be reclassified as adults if they were disruptive was being misused.

Interferon tests yield mixed results

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Early results of trials with interferon as a treatment for cancer and for a wide range of virus-induced diseases are a mixture of good news and bad news.

That is the general conclusion to be drawn from a meeting yesterday at the Royal Society, in London, at which doctors and scientists reviewed the likely medical usefulness of that remarkable substance.

The exuberance of two years ago, when interferon was being described as a potential wonder drug of the 1980s, has been substituted by a more conservative view of the scope of its clinical application.

remissions have not occurred with categories of cancer for which laboratory tests have given reasons to expect a better response.

Giving a status report for the main teams carrying out clinical trials with interferon in cancer in Britain, Dr T. J. Priestman, of the Dudley Hospital, Birmingham, said work was at an early stage of development.

Trials by his group to check for possible side-effects revealed encouraging signs of remissions among a limited number of cancer cases.

A young man with advanced Hodgkin's disease was failing to respond to cytotoxic drug therapy with cyclophosphamide and bleomycin, which is the last line of treatment open to a doctor in those circumstances. The patient received 30-day courses of treatment.

School pays vandalism informers

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Children in Gwent are being offered cash rewards by the county council for informing on school vandals. The payments are part of a campaign to combat attacks on schools, which last year cost more than £100,000 to repair.

The children are given £10 if their information leads to a conviction and this year £80 has been paid out. Their names are kept secret to protect them from intimidation.

Mr Roger Evans, chairman of the council's building and development committee, said: "There seems to be no downward trend in damage or less, wanton damage or the cost of repairs and there seems no pattern to it either."

Notices are displayed at every school in the county informing children that they will be rewarded in confidence if they help to convict young wreckers. Books have been burnt, windows and light bulbs smashed and paint smeared over classrooms.

Mr Evans appealed to people living near schools to be "public spirited and courageous" enough to report any suspicious incidents to the police.

Det Chief Supt Gordon Jones, head of Gwent CID, said: "We are tremendously encouraged by the enthusiastic attitude of comprehensive school headmasters."

Mrs Jacqueline McLoughlin, wife of the headmaster of St Davids Primary School, in Tostee, Liverpool, where children aged nine and ten have terrorized staff, spoke yesterday of her husband's happy days at the school. She said lessons ran smoothly until after last summer's riots.

Mr Colin McLoughlin, aged 53, who suffers from heart trouble, had opted for early retirement as a "substitute man" she said. "Everybody is talking about the trouble in the past few weeks, but all the good things about the school have been ignored."

"My husband had 32 happy years there and has no regrets. It is only since the riots that all this has happened", she said.

No ban on teacher of Welsh

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, has decided not to ban Mr Wayne Williams, a Welsh language activist, from teaching in state schools.

Mr Williams, aged 28, of Tregaron, Dyfed, who is a former chairman of the Welsh Language Society, served a prison sentence last year for conspiring to damage broadcasting equipment in the campaign for an all-Welsh television channel.

He is at present suspended from his job as a teacher of Welsh in a mid-Wales school. Last month a High Court judge granted a temporary injunction to a group of parents who want Mr Williams removed from Llandudoch High School, Powys.

The parents, led by Mr Lawrence Smith, a retired bank manager, who sought the injunction, say Mr Williams is not fit to teach because of his prison record.

But strong support for him has come from other parents, who say he is an excellent teacher and has never taken politics into the classroom.

Mr Williams, who is married, with a baby daughter, learnt yesterday that Sir Keith had decided after careful consideration not to put his name on List 99, of teachers banned from working in state schools because of political or criminal activities.

Sir Keith has warned Mr Williams that if he is guilty of further misconduct he is unlikely to escape disqualification. Sir Keith says his decision does not affect the right of Powys County Council to end Mr Williams's employment for misconduct.

Mr Williams said yesterday: "I am very pleased that I am not being blacklisted. This means that I could, in theory, teach at any other school except Llandudoch. I think the decision of the minister removes the objection of some parents who say I should not be allowed to resume my job because no reasonable education authority would employ me."

"Presumably Sir Keith does not believe that is the case."

CARAVAN JOBS FOR HILL FARMS

By Hugh Clayton

Tourist caravans should be used to bring jobs to remote upland beauty spots, the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers said yesterday. It proposed an evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture that farms in the less frequented scenic areas outside national parks should be given planning permission for up to five caravans each.

The union also wanted disused barns to be used for light industry and more forests planted on remote hillside.

Objections are growing to a noisy breed of small manned aircraft, known collectively as microlights and described by their opponents as "flying motor cycles".

Despite increasing popularity, microlights are subject to no statutory airworthiness or pilot training controls. Critics say they are also the source of growing noise pollution for which there is no adequate redress.

Enthusiasts claim to have quietened their craft and say they are sensitive to allegations of noise nuisance, but microlights' arrival in Britain has exposed what many council environmental health officers believe is a loophole in the noise control law.

The Noise Abatement Society, which is seeking to have them banned, has described them as "uncontrolled and uncontrollable".

Microlights are often little more than powered hang gliders, offering the delights of flying at a fraction of the cost of a normal light aircraft. Membership of the

A wrangle about the airspace over Dunstable Down has broken out between hang gliders and the pilots of traditional gliders. The London Gliding Club, which has used the thermal air currents over Tottenham, Bedfordshire, for fifty years, is concerned about the "probability" of a fatal collision involving members of the Dunstable Hang Gliding Club.

Conversely, hang glider operators say there have been attempts to frighten them off. A photograph of a tug aircraft trailing its steel cable close to where hang gliders were flying has been handed to the Civil Aviation Authority.

"It was a stupid and provocative thing to do. In other flying areas the tug aircraft share the same airspace without problems. We believe it is only a

small number of LGC members who are causing the trouble", a hang glider pilot said.

The ridge in dispute is owned by Bedfordshire County Council and offers some of the best gliding conditions within easy reach of London.

When Mr Christopher Ellison, a hang glider pilot, reported a tug aircraft for dangerous flying, both the club and the council withdrew their permits. In defiance, the hang gliders continued to take off until three pilots were prosecuted at Dunstable magistrates' court under the by-law.

The case was lost because the magistrates considered the by-law ambiguous and unreasonably partial to the London Gliding Club, and because a club member sat on the Bedfordshire County Council leisure committee.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Boy drowns after night out

Simon Hedges, aged 15, drowned early today after he and a friend had tried to row across Portsmouth harbour having missed the last ferry from Gosport. He was washed out to sea after their dinghy overturned. Kevin Crillin, aged 18, managed to swim to the shore.

The boys had been to visit their girl friends, Mrs Jean Hedges, of Hampshire Green, Warren Park, near Portsmouth, said. Mrs Pamela Crillin said: "They were both wearing heavy clothes. Kevin tried to pull Simon out of the water but could not manage it."

£20,000 libel award to rugby man

Mr J. P. R. Williams was awarded £20,000 libel damages today over newspaper articles which branded him a "shameless" in Welsh rugby.

A High Court jury in London took four and a half hours to decide that Wales's most-capped full back had been libelled in two articles in *The Daily Telegraph* alleging that he infringed his amateur status by accepting money for his autobiography in 1979.

Ballet official on forgery charge

Anthony Barlow, aged 40, a former press officer for the London Ballet, was sent for trial at the Inner London Crown Court on 30 charges of procuring and forging the company's cheques, with a total value of £5,000.

Mr Barlow, of Roseau Road, Battersea, who started working for the company in 1974, was ordered to surrender his passport to police and provide two sureties of £2,500 each. The charges relate to cheques between 1979, and February, 1981.

Palace 'prayer meetings'

One of the Queen's stewards held regular prayer meetings in Buckingham Palace and in the royal yacht *Britannia*, Mr Paul Kidd claims in a magazine article. He says he also preached to Government ministers who visited the palace.

Mr Kidd, aged 28, now works as an operating theatre technician in the Manchester area, and lives at Ashton-under-Lyne. He has broken royal protocol by writing about his service in *Decision*, the newspaper of Dr Billy Graham.

Tuck shop wins award

The tuck shop at Hereford Cathedral School has won a conservation award after boys and masters helped in a £14,000 restoration project for the sixteenth-century building, using pews and a staircase from the cathedral.

Vicar is accused

The Rev William Cecil Heatley, aged 42, of Clyde Road, Sandstead, south London, was remanded on bail by Gropdon magistrates yesterday accused of unlawfully and maliciously wounding Mr John Mallerder on January 30. Mr Heatley is vicar of St Anthony's Church, Sandstead.

Conflict in the air Rise of the flying motor cycle

By David Nicholson-Lord

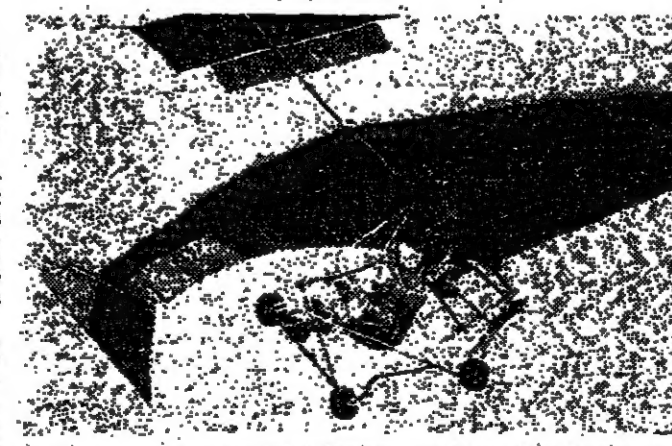
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Despite increasing popularity, microlights are subject to no statutory airworthiness or pilot training controls. Critics say they are also the source of growing noise pollution for which there is no adequate redress.

Enthusiasts claim to have quietened their craft and say they are sensitive to allegations of noise nuisance, but microlights' arrival in Britain has exposed what many council environmental health officers believe is a loophole in the noise control law.

The Noise Abatement Society, which is seeking to have them banned, has described them as "uncontrolled and uncontrollable".

Microlights are often little more than powered hang gliders, offering the delights of flying at a fraction of the cost of a normal light aircraft. Membership of the



Daring young man: The flying machine that has swept into controversy

British Microlight Aircraft Association has risen fivefold in a year and there are now at least 800 microlights in Britain.

Popularity has also brought complaints, centring on engine and exhaust noise. Earlier models used snowmobile or lawnmower engines and featured direct-drive propellers, acknowledged by Mr Ronald Bott, the association secretary, to be noisy. Newer microlights have 250-450cc two-stroke engines, lending credence to the "flying motor cycle" charge.

Mr David Johnson, chief assistant an environmental health officer at Tandridge District Council, in east Surrey, says they emit a

continuous, high-pitched noise, concentrated in one area. Mr Johnson investigated complaints about microlights using a local field but found he could take no action unless they broke air navigation rules.

That is because they are classed as aircraft and are therefore exempt from the Control of Pollution Act, 1974. Yet it is precisely their dissimilarity from private light aircraft that appeals to enthusiasts and annoys objectors.

Microlights can be taken to pieces, folded away on a roof rack or trailer, assembled in less than half an hour and launched from a cricket pitch. They are slower than light aircraft, averaging 35-55mph, compared with 100-200mph, and fly at much lower altitudes, about 1,000 ft against 4,000 ft.

The Civil Aviation Authority plans to enforce microlight pilot training procedures from next September, but has not yet set a date for the introduction of airworthiness standards. Noise certification procedures seem even further off.

Glider pilots dispute a hanging matter

By Ronald Faux

Conversely, hang glider operators say there have been attempts to frighten them off. A photograph of a tug aircraft trailing its steel cable close to where hang gliders were flying has been handed to the Civil Aviation Authority.

"It was a stupid and provocative thing to do. In other flying areas the tug aircraft share the same airspace without problems. We believe it is only a

small number of LGC members who are causing the trouble", a hang glider pilot said.

The ridge in dispute is owned by Bedfordshire County Council and offers some of the best gliding conditions within easy reach of London.

When Mr Christopher Ellison, a hang glider pilot, reported a tug aircraft for dangerous flying, both the club and the council withdrew their permits. In defiance, the hang gliders continued to take off until three pilots were prosecuted at Dunstable magistrates' court under the by-law.



For nearly 3 years this large house in Woking has been run as a residential home for active retired people.

So successful has it been that Help the Aged have decided to extend the property within its 6 acres of gardens, so that many other elderly people can be accommodated.

Work is now under way to build 20 1/2-bedroom flats and 12 large bed sitting units — each with its own bathroom, toilet and kitchen facilities and, thinking ahead, Help the Aged plan to add extra care facilities in the future.

The superb generosity of the donor of this house and the magnificent help of all our supporters has helped to produce an establishment in which generations of elderly people will live and enjoy.

Many more such houses are needed throughout the country so please ask us about our Gifted Houses scheme. We also need funds to equip and maintain these properties so that elderly people in need can live the rest of their lives with care and dignity.

HELP YOURSELF BY GIVING TO OTHERS

Through Help the Aged's Gifted House Scheme owners who give their homes to the Charity will be provided with private accommodation, free of all rates, rent, and maintenance bills for the rest of their lives. Please send for details.

Help the Aged

Room T6C, 32 Dover Street, London, W1A 2AP.

Tebbit rejects protest by youth training lobby

By Richard Evans

A mass lobby of Parliament yesterday by about 3,000 young people protesting at the Government's youth training policies was given short shrift by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

He rejected demands contained in a declaration passed at a packed rally in the Festival Hall, which was addressed by Mr Wedgwood Benn, and stepped up his accusation against Mr Benn of promoting frustration among the young jobless.

"I just hope he is not going to do for these youngsters what he has done for the Labour Party — that is, completely spoil their chances for the future," Mr Tebbit declared.

The demonstration, organized by Labour Party Young Socialists and the Youth Opportunities Programme Trainees' Union Rights Campaign, accused Mr Tebbit of adopting training schemes "to keep youth off the streets and to cook the unemployment figures".

The declaration attacked the inadequacy of YOPs and denounced Mr Tebbit's pro-

posed training scheme, due to start next year. It called for union pay rates for trainees, a guaranteed job for all at the end of their training, free travel to work and five weeks' paid holiday.

Mr Tebbit spoke for half an hour in his room in the Commons. "I did not think they were a bad lot of kids, but of course the people who are manipulating them are entirely politically motivated," he said afterwards.

"This sort of lobby is a set up by people who very skillfully make demands they know no reasonable person can agree to."

Mr Peter Gayle, aged 19, of Peckham, London, said after the meeting: "I do not think Tebbit wanted to know. I do not think he cares." Mr Laurence Coates, the Young Socialist representative on the Labour Party's National Executive Committee, said: "Tebbit's sympathy was just crocodile tears. The youth of this country have got to fight and organize for jobs. We are not going to get anything from the likes of Tebbit."

Mr Mark Spence, aged 19

and unemployed since leaving school two years ago, said: "He has nothing in common with working-class people. He dodged most of our questions and was not sympathetic at all."

Rippon's Budget plea

□ Lower interest rates and selective public investment were put forward yesterday as Budget priorities by Mr Geoffrey Rippon, the former Conservative Cabinet minister (our Political Editor writes).

High interest rates had prolonged inflation, he told a meeting of the Greater London Tory Reform Group. Britain should set its own rates, regardless of what happened in the United States.

Mr Rippon said it was imperative to redeploy public expenditure, say, on roads and sewers, to stimulate an investment-led recovery.

He accepted that there could not be a big increase in borrowing and a significant reduction in interest rates, and that severely limited the scope for tax reductions.

Inquiry may satisfy Shetland

From Jonathan Willis, Edinburgh

In an attempt to defuse home rule sentiment in the Shetland Islands the government is to set up a committee of inquiry into island councils in Scotland. The committee will examine the record of local authorities in the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland since the passing of the Local Government (Scotland) Act in 1973 and will recommend changes in the law if necessary.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has been lobbied repeatedly by the Shetland Islands Council for a commission to inquire into the constitutional status of Shetland.

Discontent over the handling of compensation from the oil industry for the Sullom Voe oil terminal, coupled with worries about the Shetland fishing industry within the EEC, has led to the formation of the Shetland Movement party, which wants limited law-making and tax-gathering powers for a local Shetland assembly.

The Shetland Movement, now the largest political party in the islands, does not want complete separation from the rest of the United Kingdom but has 12 of the 25 seats on the Shetland Islands Council and has been vociferous in its demands for a full-scale commission of inquiry.

Mr Younger's committee is less than the movement asked for but is likely to satisfy most Shetlanders.

The inclusion in the terms of reference of the Western Isles and Orkney where home rule feelings are far less pronounced, will make a special constitutional deal for Shetland less likely, but ministers are anxious to avoid any political trouble in Britain's main oil-producing province. The Shetland Movement intends to run candidates in the council elections in May.

The three island councils combine powers normally divided between district and regional councils elsewhere in Scotland. Shetland has pioneered the use of a little-known part of the 1973 Act to finance small industries out of the rates.



Miss Taylor arriving at the Palladium yesterday to face questions on her stage debut

Miss Taylor v the press

Mrs. John Warner, formerly Miss Elizabeth Taylor, Mrs. Conrad Hilton, Mrs. Michael Wilding, Mrs. Mike Todd, Mrs. Eddie Fisher, Mrs. Richard Burton (twice), pouted an ample and glittering lower lip.

The blue saucer eyes, edged in black, panned across the boiling sea of pressmen, twin gunships seeking the enemy who had fired the question whether she would be inviting Mr (Alan Hamilton writes).

"We are not talking about anyone personally at this press conference," Miss Taylor said sweetly, fixing one of those crocodile smiles that are all teeth and no joke.

Miss Taylor, dressed in burgundy suede with gold curtain rings in her ears and a gold chain round her neck, sat in the crush bar of the London Palladium as though posing for a chocolate box, framed by a gold and white proscenium arch and protected from the waist down by a parapet of carnations.

Miss Taylor, who looks

much thinner than of late from the front but less so from the side, was supposed to be telling the world about her British stage debut at the Victoria Palace on March 5 as the winner of the Reginald Gledhill and Lillian Hellman's classic *The Little Foxes*, a topic which was quickly disposed of.

Are you nervous? "Of course I'm nervous. It's my first stage play, period. We did it in America for nearly a year, but the sets and the blocking are completely different; it's like a whole new play."

Is the character like you? "I hope not. She is avaricious and vicious beyond belief, and slightly vulnerable in places."

What made you want to go on stage? "The timing was right. My husband was a new senator and very busy, and I wanted something to do myself."

Do you still enjoy being mobbed? "No, it was terrifying at Heathrow." Miss Taylor fought her way out to her chocolate-coloured Rolls-Royce, showing no outward signs of terror at the mob awaiting her in the pavement.

Amersham sale: easy to be wise in retrospect

SALE OF SHARES

Raising the case of Amersham International, shares of which were put on the market by the Government, Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition, said during questions in the Commons to the Prime Minister that it was a scandal that state assets should be put on the market in this manner and sold at knock-down prices. He asked who had advised the Government on how they should go about this procedure.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher replied that it was very easy in retrospect to make a judgment about the price. The offer price of £12.25 was decided over two weeks ago on the firm advice of professional City advisers and was believed to be the highest on which the company could be successfully offered.

It has been suggested (she went on) that it should have been put out to tender, but small investors and people who work for the company would have had a chance to take up shares. (Labour protests)

Mr Foot: Is not this something similar, although not so scandalous, to what happened in the case of Cable and Wireless. If the defence of the situation is that it is easy to view this in retrospect, what is the Prime Minister going to do if she decides to proceed with the sale of the British National Oil Corporation? Is the advice given to come from the same quarter?

Mrs Thatcher: One takes the best possible professional advice. It is possible to consider tendering in future. We shall take professional advice and consider tendering.

giving funds to Noraid on the basis that much of this money is being used for arms smuggling, and that is being used for the murder of innocent people in Northern Ireland?

Mr Patten: I am aware of that programme. A New York district court has ruled that the so-called Noraid programme is linked directly to the Provisional IRA and should be registered as such.

I would like to take this opportunity in the United States who is tempted to give financial or other aid to this organization to realize that they are doing and perhaps to take the opportunity of reflecting on what distress has been caused to the victims of those people who have suffered from the gun purchased with that money, and to recognize that Noraid might be better called 'Terror Aid' or 'Murder Aid'.

Mr Robert Atkins (Preston, North, C): It is slightly ironic that it is possible for the United States to supply this country with Trident, but they will not allow the sale of smaller arms and any guns for use by the RUC to combat terrorism.

Mr Patten: I see the logic of his question. This Government has made it clear to the Government of the United States that it utterly deprecates the fact that they suspended the licence to export weapons from the United States to friends to make available to us weapons for personal protection, but I would stress that the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster

Americans urged not to give aid

TERRORISM

An appeal to Americans to realize what they were doing when they gave money to Noraid was made by Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, during a debate on the subject of reflecting on what distress has been caused to the victims of those people who have suffered from the gun purchased with that money, and to recognize that Noraid might be better called 'Terror Aid' or 'Murder Aid'.

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All not gloom in Principality

WALES

Immensely exciting and promising things which were happening in Wales, Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said yesterday in a debate on Welsh affairs. Wales, he said, was a good place in which to live and work.

At the latest count the total number of work in Wales stood at 174,873, and the seasonally adjusted figure of 162,000 was up 15 per cent of the labour force.

The social consequences of unemployment on this scale were severe. But two aspects of the situation offered grounds for optimism. The first was that despite Wales having suffered a particularly large share of the rundown of the steel industry, the relative position of Wales within the United Kingdom economy had held up well.

The second aspect giving grounds for optimism was that there were now signs of the move from recession. Despite the disruption caused by strikes over the last couple of months, there were clear indications of an upturn in industrial output in the second quarter of last year.

Hard-headed businessmen coming to Europe without prejudices and preconceptions were increasingly looking at Wales as an ideal location for their operations. The story of Llanwrtyd and Port Talbot with their dramatic improvements in productivity had become a striking example to British industry. Others had matched that performance.

Figures of factory allocations of an upturn in the economy. There was a significantly larger number of applications for selective financial assistance in 1981 than in the previous year. More important still, there was a significant increase in the number of offers accepted: 112 worth more than £20m and expected to create well over 7,000 new jobs and safeguard over 4,000 existing jobs.

He had appointed a new

chairman of the Welsh Water Authority who would take over on June 1. He was Mr John Jones, chosen from 80 applicants, who was at present seconded to the Welsh Office by his employers Ampley Aluminium, an industrial director. The names of the majority of the new board would be announced within the next few weeks.

He had agreed with the Manpower Services Commission that the Government would enterprise allowance scheme in Wales to help people who wanted to set up businesses. The area chosen was Deseide in north-east Wales.

A figure of £500,000 had been earmarked for the scheme which it was hoped would be running in April. The pilot scheme would operate for three years.

Mr Alec Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Rhondda, Lab), said that St David would turn in his grave if he could see the Government's cuts in education, health and social services which had wrecked all over Wales in the short period for which it had been responsible. Wales and no significant group of Welsh people had escaped from the Government's incompetent administration.

Ministers and their sycophantic backbenchers had managed to spread discontent, distress and disaster from one end of Wales to the other.

The Tory Party was today, as it was in his youth, the party of the unemployed in Wales. Under the Secretary of State's stewardship unemployment had increased by 115.5 per cent — one in six of the work force. With unemployment standing at 16.1 per cent Wales had the unenviable distinction of having a higher percentage of unemployed than Scotland and any region of England.

Government economic policies would leave a scar on society which would take many years to heal. There had been deliberate attempts to reduce artificially and massage downwards the numbers of people on the unemployment register.

The majority of people in

Wales were not working but job hungry.

Mr Morgan (Denbigh, C) said he could only describe as irresponsible the final vote of the Welsh counties declaring the Welsh Office to be a nuclear-free zone.

He could not think that Welsh opinion was basically different on this issue from that of British as a whole and it was apparent from poll after poll that the British as a whole wished that the majority of the Welsh people should be able to retain effective members of NATO and to retain the nuclear deterrent as the surest way of maintaining the peace.

Mr How Davies (Gower, Lab) said that the Government's cuts in education, health and social services had contributed to the recession. Wales in particular had been hit hard. With two-thirds of Welsh jobs dependent upon public expenditure directly or indirectly the cuts had been a savage blow.

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State help for potato board

The Minister of Agriculture is making £150,000 available to help the Potato Marketing Board launch a premium potato campaign for the 1982 potato crop.

Mr Peter Walker, announcing the grant, said in a written reply that he was encouraging the board to strengthen its efforts in marketing British potatoes so that they met the needs of the domestic consumer and the processing industry.



Thatcher: Took best advice

I emphasize that we are anxious that employees should have the chance to purchase shares. Small investors should have a chance to purchase shares. By this method they can, by all means, make money. They cannot.

Mr Foot: Some of her advisers who gave worst advice on this subject have made at least a million pounds out of it. (Lab cheers and Conservative protests)

Mrs Thatcher: I hope that Mr Foot is not making any accusation he would not make himself. (Conservative cheers)

Later, during questions about next week's business, Mr Foot asked for a debate on Amersham International, in the light of what had occurred in the case of Cable and Wireless, and the way they tried to preserve taxpayers' money, and in order to ensure that the same kind of thing did not occur again.

Mr Francis Fynn, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the Commons, said that he could do nothing to what the Prime Minister said. He added that Mr Foot had opportunities to arrange a debate.

A written Parliamentary answer yesterday pointed out that the Amersham International, a company for sale of the company was 24.6 times subscribed by applications from company employees and the public.

□ When Mrs Thatcher was challenged at question time about a National Institute report which predicted increased unemployment, she replied that the report also forecasted recovery and lower inflation.

Constabulary is perfectly satisfied with the equipment which his men carry at the moment.

Judge unwise to send thief to Britain

The decision by a judge in the Irish Republic to give a prisoner a second chance by sending him to the United Kingdom had not been wise, Mr Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday.

Mr James Kilfedder (Down, North, U) stated: When the next Prime Minister of the Irish Free State is known — and it looks as if it will be a man who will have sympathy for the IRA, it will be well to be told bluntly that we oppose the way the courts send Irish citizens, who are not dangerous to the United Kingdom, but refuse to extradite Provisional IRA terrorists who are responsible for atrocities committed in Ireland.

It is time the Eire Government was told our views.

Mr Prior: The Government of the Republic is well aware of the views of the United Kingdom Government in the matters mentioned. I believe that the Government of the Republic, and particularly by the Garda, along the border, has realized in a considerable improvement in the security situation.

Guidance on setting up trusts

HOUSE OF LORDS

A Government minister rejected a call by Lady Ewart-Biggs (Lab) for new legislation on disaster trusts despite the problems which followed the Penlee lifeboat tragedy. But he added that guidance was being prepared to help in the establishment of trusts.

Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said: The Government does not think new legislation is necessary. What this tragic case has shown is that the organizers of disaster appeals need to be fully aware of the financial and legal consequences of the establishment of trusts, and the Government is preparing suitable guidance for the profession, banks and other bodies.

The Charity Commissioners are always prepared to give advice to people who are about to establish charitable trusts as a matter of urgency.

Lady Ewart-Biggs: We have learnt that the machinery at our disposal is not sufficient because so much money has come in for the needs of dependants. This has created hostility and drawn suspicious attention to dependants. It has deprived some good

charitable associations of resources which might well have gone to them. Perhaps the time has come to think about a national fund operated by a disaster committee.

Lord Belstead: A general fund could well inhibit the generous public response to locally-initiated appeals. The machinery for charitable giving is suitable if it is understood. This is why the Attorney General (Sir Michael Havers) is preparing the guidance I mentioned.

Lord Elyon-Jones for the Opposition: Is this an appropriate moment to look again at the charity law because of the confusion and difficulty which has arisen?

Lord Belstead: No.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Travel Concessions (Northern Ireland) Bill, remaining stages. Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motion on gas prices and on Opposition motion on the situation in central and southern Italy. Wednesday: Further progress on the committee stage of the Canada Bill. Thursday: Coal Industry Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Private members' motion on test-tube babies.

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Transfer of power must be effective

DEVOLUTION

The return of political responsibility to Northern Ireland could do more than anything to help with both security and the serious economic situation, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during a question on his proposals for devolved government in the province.

He was earlier warned by Mr James Molyneux (South, Antrim), leader of the official Unionists, that a devolved Government would have to have real power from day one if disaster was to be avoided.

A power assembly (he said) would create and generate friction between the political parties in Northern Ireland and inflict further damage on the country.

Mr Prior replied that in his opinion it was not necessary for all the powers in a devolved government to be exercised from day one, although the powers should be available for transfer from day one, provided circumstances which the Government considered necessary were met. These were all matters for further discussion.

Mr Prior explained that his talks with the Northern Irish political parties were continuing. He had discussed various options with them and had found it invaluable to have their views on what was and was not acceptable to them.

I am convinced (he went on) that there is now an overwhelming desire for a move towards greater political responsibility to be exercised within the province. It is to seek to narrow the area of difference between the parties so that a transfer of power is not only desirable but effective. In the course I hope to bring firm proposals before the House.

Mr James McCusker (Armagh, N.I.U.) Hearing in mind what he has said about a weighted majority, does he see that in the context of a percentage of the total membership of any such assembly, or percentage of those who would vote on any particular issue?

Considering how difficult it would be to secure a consensus on any issue in this House or in any other elected assembly, he said it was in danger of putting an insurmountable barrier before this elected assembly in Northern Ireland?

It would be better to put the onus on the wreckers who would not want to make progress in an assembly, to put their troops into the lobby against the pressures of the elected assembly, he said, trying to get an agreement.

Mr Prior: These are matters I am considering. One of the matters is the question of the weighted majority. I have taken note of his comments on turning it round the other way, but it is too early to draw any definite conclusions from the talks I have had.

Emergency provisions in Northern Ireland would remain until terrorism had ceased, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Stockport, North, Lab) had asked for an inquiry into the operation of the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act. There is always a danger of temporary provisions turning into permanent ones (he said).

Would he not set up an inquiry to look at ways in which legislation can be phased out?

Mr Prior: These are matters that will be considered ahead of the next renewal of the Act, but violence and the capacity for it is sufficiently high to require such measures still to deal with it.

Powers to stay until terrorism has ceased

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Molyneux: Powers from day one

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Lord Belstead: No.

Riot control weapons held by police

Some 3,000 baton rounds and 1,000 CS projectiles of approved types were held by police forces in England and Wales for anti-riot purposes, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, stated in a written reply to a series of questions by Mr Reginald Freeman (Brent, East, Lab).

Mr Whitelaw said the storage of these was controlled by the Chief Officers of Police concerned. The Home Office was continuing to study water cannon that were, or might be, available for use by the police in riots.

Presently two former military vehicles were on loan to the police for assessment. Full account would be taken in the course of these studies of any risk of injury associated with the use of water cannon.

Advice on the assessment of risks associated with the use of baton rounds had been made available to him by the Secretary of State for Defence (Sir John Nott).

A variety of riot control equipment had been acquired by police forces since July 1981. This included helmets, shields, fireproof overalls and other supporting equipment. Such equipment was regularly evaluated by the Home Office.

State help for potato board

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Reagan rethinks plans to cut nuclear arms

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, Feb 25

The Reagan Administration is working on a radical proposal for substantial reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union, according to American officials. The aim would be to "reduce the aggregate destructive capability of the strategic nuclear arsenals in a militarily significant way".

Among options being considered are possible direct limitations on the number of nuclear warheads, missile "throw-weight" (lifting power) and guidance systems accuracy. The officials emphasized that the Administration also wanted any new treaty to include adequate verification measures, because it was essential the two sides should have confidence that neither was cheating.

Any such plan would be presented at strategic arms reduction talks (Start) between the two superpowers. But the officials cautioned that the opening of these negotiations depended on an improvement in East-West relations.

The Start process could not be insulated from other international events, officials said. "The continuing repression of the Polish people in which the Soviet responsibility is clear — obviously constitutes a major setback for East-West relations", they said, therefore it was not appropriate in the present circumstances to discuss a date for beginning Start.

Although the United States does not expect early strategic arms talks because of the Polish crisis, officials are preparing themselves for the time when negotiations with Moscow can resume.

What the United States would hope to achieve would be a treaty that would "enhance the security of both the superpowers by reducing the instability and unpredictability of the strategic nuclear balance".

Under the 1972 Salt 1 treaty and the 1974 Vladivostok agreement, ceilings were placed on the number of long-range bombers and strategic missile launchers each side could have. But there were no limits set on the number of warheads each missile could carry.

The Salt 2 treaty of 1979 limited each side to 2,400 inter-continental ballistic missiles and bombers each and also placed some limits on multiple warheads. But that treaty was not ratified by the United States Senate because of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

It would have limited land-based missiles on each side to a maximum of 10 warheads apiece. However, the Soviet SS18 missile is capable of carrying up to 30 warheads, whereas the proposed new American MX missile will only carry around 10.

According to official American figures, at the beginning of last year the United States had 1,630 land- and sea-based missiles com-

pared with the Soviet Union's 2,348 missiles. However, the United States possessed 570 long-range bombers against 156 by the Soviet Union. American experts are now working on a new "unit of account" or measurement which would more correctly represent the offensive nuclear capabilities of the two countries.

The two countries have already had preliminary diplomatic contacts over some of the new American thinking, but no details are available. Officials emphasized that before any proposal was adopted by the Reagan Administration, there would be close consultations with Nato, which is due to hold a summit meeting in Bonn in June.

□ Moscow: President Brezhnev today denounced the United States for dragging its feet in a variety of arms control talks, and called for a prompt result at the Geneva negotiations on medium-range missiles in Europe (Michael Binyon writes).

In a statement on the front page of Pravda, the Soviet leader spoke of the urgency of reaching agreements to end the arms race before the end of the forthcoming special United Nations session on disarmament, and said his country would do "everything within our power" to facilitate agreements.

But he accused the United States of failing to support a declaration not to be the first country to use nuclear weapons, and of procrastinating ratification of the 1974 underground nuclear test ban treaty. He cast doubt on American intentions of reaching agreements in other fields.

Ostensibly addressing his calls to an unidentified Australian peace organization which had written to him asking about Soviet attitudes to arms control, Mr Brezhnev repeated Soviet entreaties for a swift resumption of the Salt talks limiting strategic nuclear arms.

He added: "The Soviet Union is ready for this at any moment, but the American side is incessantly postponing the dialogue on this problem which worries the whole of mankind."

He said it was also extremely urgent to resume the Soviet-American talks on prohibiting chemical weapons, which he said were unilaterally interrupted by the American side.

□ Vienna: Western representatives here said today that they would study carefully a Warsaw Pact draft agreement tabled last week, on reducing both sides' troops in central Europe to see if it could help revive deadlocked negotiations (Reuter reports).

Herr Walter Boss, the West German Ambassador, told the 29th plenary session of the 19-nation Vienna talks that have dragged on for eight years that the Eastern draft failed to deal with issues that were crucial for the west.

Steelmen step up 'dead town' strikes

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 25

For the second day running, the steel industry in Belgium was paralysed today by strikes as angry workers took to the streets and the railway lines to emphasize their concern about the Government's economic programme.

Charleroi, the second French-speaking city of Belgium, was completely halted and trains in and out of Namur were blocked. Liège was only slightly more active than on the previous day when a "dead town" tactic was ordered by the unions.

The reaction in French-speaking Wallonia is in response to the austerity measures declared by the Government last weekend with the devaluation of the Belgian franc and to the threat hanging over the entire Belgian steel industry.

Some 100,000 jobs in Wallonia depend directly or indirectly on the steel industry in the area.

This concern was evident earlier in the month when steelworkers demonstrated in Brussels to save their jobs and were involved in violent incidents with mounted police.

The Government promise that interests the unions is that there will be a three-month total price freeze, save for some very deserving special cases. Only in these circumstances will the unions be likely to accept the three-month wage freeze which has now been imposed.



Hitting the top note

Sheena Easton, the Scottish rock singer with her Grammy award in Los Angeles. Miss Easton, aged 22, was judged best recording artist of the year for *Morning Train* and *For Your Eyes Only*.

Yoko Ono, struggling to hold back tears, was given a standing ovation when she and her late husband, John Lennon, won an award

for their record album, *Double Fantasy*.

Lena Horne, won two Grammys — for best female pop vocal performance and for best cast show album.

Other winners included Police the British rock group, Dolly Parton, the country and western singer, and Sir Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Uproar at trial of 'Islamic Guards'

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Feb 25

The trial of five men charged with attempting to assassinate Mr Shampour Bakhtiar, the former Iranian Prime Minister, in July 1980, nearly broke up in confusion today.

The men, belonging to a group of Pasdaran (Guardians of the Islamic Revolution) who were in the dock at Nanterre, a Paris suburb, rejected the right of French justice to try them, and refused to be defended by French counsel.

Mr Bakhtiar, who has been living in exile in France since 1979, narrowly escaped assassination when three men, posing as journalists, tried to break into his flat in Neuilly. They were stopped by the strong police guard.

In the shooting which broke out, one police officer was killed, and two were injured.

The court building and its precincts were cordoned off by 500 gendarmes and riot police with police dogs.

Only two people were in the public gallery, a cousin of Mr Bakhtiar, and the wife of Mr Anis Naccache, a Lebanese and member of the Palestinian Fatah organization.

As they were led into the court, the defendants shouted: "Death to the traitors!" and "Down with the United States, down with Russia, down with Mitterrand!"

When three women were drawn by lot to sit on the jury, Mr Naccache jumped up shouting: "Islam forbids women to be judges. We reject all women."

Elysée summit irons over the differences

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 25

President Mitterrand and West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, today emphasized the close ties between their countries in the face of the grave threat from the revived tension between East and West, and the world economic crisis.

Hence the deliberate solemnity of the thirty-ninth Franco-German summit which ended here today, and of a final declaration, which emphasizes the similarity of their analysis of these and other world problems, even if they have different views on their solution.

Their standpoints are practically identical on the condemnation of the repression in Poland taken "under pressure and with the assistance of the Soviet Union", on the need to restore the balance of forces in Europe through the stationing of American theatre nuclear weapons, and simultaneously to pursue talks on arms limitation; and on the "vital strengthening of the solidarity between the United States and the other members of the Atlantic Alliance."

They both opposed any "transfer of the East-West conflict to the Third World", and the importance of "the development to the South in the spirit of non-alignment, which was enshrined in the Cancun declaration last summer. But at their press conference after the talks it was quite clear from the Chancellor's silence on the subject that he has strong misgivings about French assistance to "liberation movements" in Central America.

They also agreed on "the very grave consequences" for European economies of high United States interest rates, and on their "determination to do something about it" in agreement with their partners in the Community.

However the Bonn Government is obviously not prepared to go as far as France on recommending to them European counter-measures if their representations to Washington remain unheeded.

Their approach to the difficulties in the EEC is also different: they are at one in the need to overcome them "in a spirit of solidarity". But according to German sources, if the Bonn Government agrees to defend Community institutions, it does not wholly endorse the French standpoint on agricultural prices, and does not want to get involved in the controversy between Paris and London on the Community budget.

□ Manchester: Mr Christopher Tugendhat, a vice-president of the EEC Commission, to-night expressed strong anxiety about Europe's relations with America. (Denis Taylor writes). He said that if the Community failed to rise to the international challenges with which it was confronted, it "will sink into the same limbo of lingering irrelevance as the League of Nations".

In a speech here he said: "I am particularly worried about the effects of Europe's disunity and inability to respond to crises on our relations with the United States."

Pan Am

dep

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NEW YORK PAI

13:30

16:05

Experience tells you to take the one with most experience.

It's no coincidence that the most convenient daily flight from London Heathrow to New York carries our name.

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We've learned that you may want that early meeting in your office before setting off for the airport.

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Because nobody's been in Business longer, and it shows.

 **PAN AM**

Words that Koch may have to eat

New York, Feb 25. — Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York, calls Mr Richard Nixon a "phoney", Mr Spiro Agnew a "spittle" and Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, a "schmuck" in an interview with *Playboy*.

The outspoken mayor, who announced on Monday that he is running for Governor, also says Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, are terrible.

Observers predicted that some of his derogatory comments about the constituency he now seeks — the rest of New York State — would return to haunt him.

In the interview, conducted last December, Mr Koch said he would never run for Governor because it was "a terrible position" and called the president of the city council, Mr Carol Bellamy, who would succeed him as mayor should he be elected governor, a "pain in the ass".

Yesterday the mayor sought to take the edge off his comments by asserting he intended them as jokes. But he acknowledged they were embarrassing. — Reuter.

Plea to Greek troops

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Feb 25

The Greek military leadership and some 250 senior officers of the Athens garrison today heard Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, outline his Socialist Government's strategy, and urge them to keep politics out of the barracks.

In this first contact between Mr Papandreu, who is also Minister of Defence, and the commanders of military units deployed in the vicinity of the capital, the Prime Minister explained why he was pressing Nato to grant Greece guarantees against an attack from Turkey.

Indonesia's sea claim supported

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 25

Malaysia today recognized Indonesia's controversial "archipelagic principle" setting what could become a precedent for the forthcoming law of the sea negotiations.

Under the principle, Indonesia lays claim to all the waters enclosed within lines drawn from the outermost points of its more than 13,000 islands, covering some 600,000 square miles of ocean.

Malayan recognition of the claim is included in a maritime agreement signed today in Jakarta. It relates particularly to the waters of the South China Sea and those between peninsular and East Malaysia.

Malaysia recognizes Indonesia's exclusive territorial and economic rights over the waters under the archipelagic principle sought for the past two decades by Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister. In turn, Indonesia recognizes Malaysia's traditional fishing rights and rights of free passage for the laying of undersea cables.

"We are the only Nato country facing a threat from another ally on the east," he said. "This unique position explains why within the framework of the alliance, we are demanding guarantees for our frontiers as well as military aid on a scale that would maintain the equilibrium in the Aegean."

In order to consolidate its independence even within the alliance, Greece should develop other sources of armaments and build up the domestic arms industry, he said. The Greek armed forces are 90 per cent American equipped.

Mugabe pledge to Carrington over detainees

From Michael Hornsby, Salisbury, Feb 25

The political crisis in Zimbabwe after last week's dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from the coalition Cabinet was discussed during an hour-and-a-half meeting in Salisbury today between Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, and Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary.

Lord Carrington arrived in the morning on a two-day official visit, the first since he attended the celebrations of Zimbabwe's independence in April, 1980, which was made possible by the Lancaster House agreement signed in December of the previous year.

No details were available of the Foreign Secretary's talk with the Prime Minister, who took the initiative by offering his own explanation of recent events. It is understood that Mr Mugabe also gave an assurance that several white politicians in detention since last year would soon be brought to trial.

British officials travelling with Lord Carrington were at pains to point out that his visit was arranged some months ago and should not be seen in any sense as a response to current events. It was also "nonsense" to suggest that the Foreign Secretary had come to Salisbury to monitor the Zimbabwe Government's observance of the Lancaster House agreement.

The present crisis was provoked by the unearthing of large caches of weapons on farms owned by Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front (Zapu) party. A new cache, including 200 land mines, 3,000 rounds of ammunition, and several missiles was found today near the Midlands town of Gwelo.

The chief danger in the tense situation created by Mr Nkomo's dismissal is that it would set off factional fighting within the army, which was formed by merging the former guerrilla forces of both Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe. There was a serious outbreak of such fighting in Bulawayo, Mr Nkomo's home town, a year ago.

Lord Carrington was briefed this afternoon on the army's so far quiescent reaction to the political crisis by Major-General Colin Shortt, who heads the British military advisory and training team which was requested by Mr Mugabe to supervise the integration of the two guerrilla forces.

After a brisk and businesslike welcome this morning at Salisbury airport, Lord Carrington went straight into talks with Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, the Zimbabwe Foreign Minister, who expressed some concern about the slow pace of the negotiations over the future of Namibia (South-West Africa).

In a discussion with Mr Bernard Chidzero, the recently appointed Minister of Finance, Lord Carrington asked whether it might be possible to ease the problems of British citizens with investments in Zimbabwe who are unable to take out their capital.

Lord Carrington presented Mr Mugabe with a belated independence gift from the British Government and people. This was a silver dinner table centrepiece surrounded by copies of the carved stone birds found at the Great Zimbabwe ruins.



Salisbury smiles: Lord Carrington presenting Mr Mugabe with a belated independence gift.

Finance surprise in big Kenyan reshuffle

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 25

President Moi reshuffled Kenya's Cabinet extensively today, moving Mr Mwai Kibaki, the Vice-President, from the Finance Ministry to Home Affairs.

Mr Charles Njonjo, another key figure who was previously Minister of Constitutional and Home Affairs, is now merely Minister of Constitutional Affairs and is no longer responsible for the Criminal Investigation Department.

Mr Kibaki and Mr Njonjo have been regarded here as involved in a power struggle, although they and President Moi have always insisted there is no such struggle within the Cabinet or the ruling Kenya African National Union.

Mr Arthur Magugu, the new Finance Minister, was formerly Minister of Health. He is not generally known here as a financial expert, and his appointment has caused some surprise, coming at a time when Kenya, like other developing countries, faces serious economic problems.

No minister has been dropped, but only nine of the 25 retain their former posts.

Two more ministries have been created, and the two ministries of State in the President's office, who have been close to President Moi since he took office on the death of President Kenyatta in 1978, have been named to fill the new posts.

Mr Godfrey Kariki, formerly Minister of State with responsibility for internal



Mr Mwai Kibaki: Moving to Home Affairs.

The full cabinet (in President's office): President: Daniel Moi, Vice-President: Mwai Kibaki, Minister of Home Affairs: Charles Njonjo, Minister of Finance: Arthur Magugu, Minister of Health: Godfrey Kariki, Minister of Education: Joseph Njiru, Minister of Agriculture: Joseph Njiru, Minister of Labour: Titus Peter Oloo Aringo, Minister of Lands, Settlement and Physical Planning: Mr Nicholas Biwott, Minister of State, Minister of Regional Development, Science and Technology: Mr Charles Njonjo.

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BL Fighting back



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Struggle in Central America

Reagan snubs Mexican mediation offer

President Reagan's speech to the Organization of American States yesterday, in which he proposed an economic plan for Central America and the Caribbean, contained one big omission which has provoked adverse comment in the region.

He failed to respond to an offer made last weekend by President José Lopez Portillo of Mexico to act as a "communicator" between countries in the region which are at loggerheads, notably the United States, Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Most of President Reagan's speech was devoted to outlining details of his plan to increase economic assistance to the region by \$350m (about £190m) this year, provide tax incentives for American firms willing to invest in the region and give duty-free access to the United States for most of the region's exports.

However, the President also included tough warnings against Cuba and the Soviet Union attempting to extend their influence, and attacked Nicaragua for being a "platform for covert military action".

In his speech made in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua last Sunday, President Reagan's much-heralded statement outlined a three-part peace plan. This called for a negotiated settlement of

El Salvador's civil war, a non-aggression pact between the United States and Nicaragua and talks between the United States and Cuba to cool mutual hostility.

The Mexican leader's speech has already been warmly received by Cuba and Nicaragua. However, Mr Reagan's failure to refer to the Mexican initiative shows that the United States is decidedly cool about it.

State Department officials have emphasised that the United States is opposed to negotiated settlement in El Salvador as they believe this would open the door to a left-wing takeover. Instead the United States supports the elections which are to be held at the end of next month, even though the elections are being boycotted by most left-wing parties.

The officials also pointed out that the United States had already told Nicaragua it was prepared to improve relations with the left-wing Sandinista regime in Managua provided that it ended its support for left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador. But this had not occurred, officials said.

Although the United States is cool about the Mexican leader's proposals, the fact that Mr Reagan did not even acknowledge them has caused particular surprise,

because the President has been trying to establish close ties with his Mexican counterpart. "It was absolutely astounding by this omission," one Central American diplomat said.

The President's Caribbean plan has produced a predictable response from countries in the area generally hostile from Cuba and Nicaragua, and warm from Costa Rica, El Salvador and Jamaica.

Mr Edward Seaga, the Jamaican Prime Minister, whose country is already receiving substantial American aid, said the plan was "bold, historic and far-reaching in concept".

However, there are widespread doubts about aspects of the plan. Representatives from countries in the region said they expected it to get opposition from United States interest groups, notably the sugar lobby. They also doubted that the President's initiative would do much to encourage new American investment in the region given the present state of the United States economy.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is continuing with plans for a Nato exercise to take place in the Gulf of Mexico next month. The exercise will involve about 30 warships, 80 aircraft and about 10,000 men.

The 10-day exercise is code-named "Operation Safe Pass". It is expected to include warships from the United States, Britain, West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Officials said the exercise reflects United States concern over increased Soviet arms supplies to Cuba. Last year Cuba received 66,000 tons of war supplies from the Soviet Union, more than any year since the Cuban missile crisis. Last month senior United States officials disclosed that Cuba had received a second squadron of MIG 23s from the Soviet Union.

Moscow: Tass today denounced President Reagan's Caribbean aid package saying it was aimed at supporting "counter-revolutionary elements and bloodstained repressive regimes" in the region (Reuter reports).

Tass, reporting from Washington, said President Reagan's announcement was intended to ensure continued United States domination of the Caribbean region.

Washington intended to send aid to repressive regimes such as those in El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti, "to strangle the mounting national liberation movement of the peoples and perpetuate United States neo-colonialist dominance".

Girl guerrilla keeps her mission a secret

From Paul Eilman, Santa Clara, El Salvador, Feb 25

The crowd huddled in the dingy town square was visibly terrified. "We heard that they were going to bomb our village so we ran away," Señor Moldano Iragre, an elderly man wearing the straw hat of a Salvadorean fieldworker, said.

"It is all a misunderstanding," was the reply of the head of the local National Guard detachment, a plump sergeant with little apparent interest in finding out what was happening in the village, less than a mile out of town.

"I have heard there are guerrillas on the road, so be careful," he warned a carload of reporters trying to establish where the fighting is taking place, and its intensity on a broad front where both sides have been claiming victories during the past week.

Salvadorean troops yesterday pulled out of this area, about 45 miles east of San Salvador on the border between the provinces of San Vicente and Cabañas, after a five-day operation.

According to Colonel Sigfrido Ochao, the army commander for the region, the operation was a success. The colonel said his troops had flushed guerrillas out of eight camps, killing 28.

The guerrillas positioned at a road just outside Santa Clara offered a different version of the battle. More like they killed 28 of them, snorted Compañera Claudia, a beautiful girl guerrilla with long black hair and silver earrings who has been fighting with the Revolutionary Army of the People (ERP) for just over a year.

This is one of five armies fighting under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front against the junta of civilian and military figures headed by President Duarte.

Clutching an M1 carbine and a bag of rations which included sardines, powdered milk and lollipops, Claudia explained that the guerrillas had a different view of victory and defeat. "It is normal that when the army comes to our camp we leave. It is not as if we lived in brick houses," she said.

Her detachment had been ordered to regroup around Santa Clara. "We are waiting for the army to come down the road after us. We have a mission, but that's a secret."

The operation which just ended here was one of four conducted by Salvadorean forces on a broad territory running between 30 and 40 miles north and east of the capital.

Its aim is to try to break up large concentrations of guerrillas which have formed on this front, apparently to disrupt the closing stages of campaigning in the election scheduled for March 28.

Although the Salvadorean command appears to be succeeding in its aim, the operations seem unimpressive and almost leisurely, certainly lacking the vicious intensity of edited television films.

The troops take shelter from the scorching sun early in the day and the torpid stillness is only occasionally broken by the crack of carbine fire or the distant boom of an artillery shell.

The guerrillas appear to have moved out of some of their strongholds, at least for the time when the Army is around.

Their failure to launch a counter-offensive is said by political sources to be the result of a debate among the guerrillas' political leadership over tactics to pursue in election time.

Polish party preserves facade of unity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 25

Reports of the death of Polish communism have, to paraphrase Mark Twain, been greatly exaggerated. That seemed to be the main message, some would say the only message, to emerge from the plenary session of the Central Committee of the Polish Communist Party which ran out of breath here today.

It was the first plenary meeting since the declaration of martial law more than two months ago and was thus expected by many to provide a showdown between frustrated hardline Marxists and frustrated liberal reformers, with General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, being caught in the crossfire.

Instead, General Jaruzelski, as party leader, produced a speech that dominated the first day of the plenum, stamping the subsequent discussion, as each Central Committee member seized on an aspect of the statement and developed the theme.

The tone of the general's speech was in line with his moderate position in the party, making a few token concessions to the hardliners — but firmly committing the party to the line of the ninth emergency party congress last summer.

That congress, which trimmed away the extremes of the party, has been regarded with some suspicion by hardliners over the past few months. It made them believe too many concessions to Solidarity, the independent trade unions. It was too articulate in its pledge to political reform.

Hardline delegates were somewhat wounded by the speech, coming hard on a Soviet invitation to General Jaruzelski to visit Moscow. However, the influence of these fundamental Marxists, which has grown over the two months since martial law, has not disappeared. Above all, it still has an important right of veto in the party.

Thus the party moderates had been hoping that a draft declaration entitled "What we are fighting for and where we are going" would be adopted by the plenum. But shortly before the plenary session, great resistance was expressed by hardliners at an ideological subcommittee headed by Mr Stefan Olszowski, regarded as a political hardliner in the Politburo.

The balance of forces is not even, that much has become evident in the plenary session. While some speakers have criticized revisionism — shorthand for excessive reforming zeal — most have confined their tough statements to safe targets such as criticizing President Reagan, Radio Free Europe, Solidarity or party corruption.

It now seems evident that if there is to be a showdown between those who favour Hungarian-style moderate change and those who support a tough, Czechoslovak-style communism, it will come at the next plenary session.

This plenum has, at least, showed Poles that the Communist Party still exists, that it can preserve a facade of unity.

International Red Cross officials have spoken to 1,000 prisoners in six Polish internment camps over the past month and have secured the release of 130, charity officials said today.

Although the officials were reluctant to discuss conditions in the camps, they said that the 130 had been released mainly because of ill health and a further 38 applications were being considered.

The International Red Cross is the only organization apart from the Catholic Church that has been permitted to visit internees and it is reluctant to lose this privilege by making critical comments.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Bourguiba ultimatum to Gaddafi

Tunis — President Bourguiba of Tunisia has asked Colonel Gaddafi of Libya either to hand back an agreement to merge their countries or face the continuation of an eight-year-old quarrel over the document (informal sources told Reuter). But at their third meeting during the Libyan leaders' current visit it was unclear whether Colonel Gaddafi had produced the document.

Tunisia reneged on the merger shortly after Mr Bourguiba and Colonel Gaddafi signed it on the island of Jerba in January, 1974. Mr Bourguiba dismissed his Foreign Minister, saying he had been misled.

Flanked by teenage girl security guards, who were at first barred from the Carthage Palace, met Mr Bourguiba on Wednesday and again late at night for an unscheduled second encounter the sources said. The only reason he was invited to Tunisia was to return the document, they maintained.

Seoul presses peace talks

Seoul — South Korea took its recent peace offensive towards North Korea a stage further by "cursing" for a meeting between delegations of nine members each headed by Cabinet-rank officials during next month (Joceline Redditt writes).

A statement issued by Mr Sohn Jae Shik, the Minister of Unification, made it clear, however, that South Korea could not seriously consider the North's proposal of a meeting of 50 delegates from each side, with those of the South named by the North.

The North's proposal was a social and beyond our understanding," Mr Sohn said. The North's choice included banned politicians and people in prison.

Stockman 'not resigning'

Washington — The White House moved quickly to scotch rumours that Mr David Stockman, the Budget Director (above), has tendered his resignation as a result of strong criticism in Congress over President Reagan's 1983 budget proposals. "The President is pleased with the job Mr Stockman is doing," the spokesman said.

News reports had quoted unnamed Republicans in Congress as saying it was no longer possible for Mr Stockman to survive. Later, a senior Reagan official told reporters on a background basis that it was his understanding that Mr Stockman had tendered his resignation in writing.

Beirut — More than 100 hostages were freed unharmed after Muslim gunmen who hijacked a Kuwait Airways Boeing 707 at Beirut airport on Wednesday gave themselves up. A clergyman who negotiated with the 12 gunmen said they agreed to surrender in return for moves to investigate the fate of Imam Moussa Sadr, the spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shiite Muslims who vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1978. The airliner, piloted by an Englishman, Mr Leslie Bradley, native of Northumbria, returned to Kuwait.

Hostages freed by jet hijackers

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Gunmen fail to kill police chief

Iran's Chief of Police, Colonel Ebrahim Ebrazi, survived unhurt when gunmen in Tehran fired on his car from all sides, Tehran radio said. He took up his post in September after his predecessor, Mr Houshang Dastgerdi, was killed in a bomb explosion blamed by the authorities on the outlawed Mujahedin guerrilla group.

In the south of the capital, Hojatoleslaw Tassaloti, prayers leader of a mosque, was wounded in the leg by unidentified gunmen.

Malawi turns out for Kaunda

Blantyre — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia arrived for a five-day official visit to Malawi, his first since the two former British colonies became independent in 1964. He received a tumultuous welcome from 60,000

CORRECTION

The book by André Malraux mentioned in a report from New York on February 23, *The Royal Way*, not *The Royal Navy*, as stated.

The marijuana boom

A pot of gold in the Californian fields

From Ivor Davies, Los Angeles, Feb 25

In the past year California's agricultural industry grossed \$13,200m (£7,250m) from its wide variety of produce. However, that figure does not include income derived from a plant that is being cultivated and harvested on thousands of acres of land in the Golden State.

All over California, particularly in the less densely populated areas in the north of the state, farmers busily cultivate annual crops of marijuana. Experts believe it has become a multi-billion dollar industry that rivals the revenue of such titans as General Motors and the bigger oil companies.

Exactly how lucrative a business the illegal sale of marijuana, pot, grass or cannabis has become nobody knows for certain. This week, the California Drug Enforcement Bureau reported that, in the past year, its agents had seized 175,563 illegal plants, totalling some 219,000lb of marijuana. A street value of some \$2,000 a pound means that the confiscated drugs were worth almost \$500m.

Captain Robert Blanchard, commanding officer of the

Los Angeles police department's narcotics division, who recently testified to a Congress select committee looking into the mushrooming use and abuse of illegal drugs, estimates that agents confiscate a mere 10 per cent of the marijuana grown and sold around the United States.

In a city the size of Los Angeles, police last year seized more than 40,000lb of marijuana, fractionally less than the year before. Captain Blanchard explains the drop by pointing out that in the previous year his detectives had confiscated in one sweep some 18 tons of marijuana from a yacht once used by President Roosevelt.

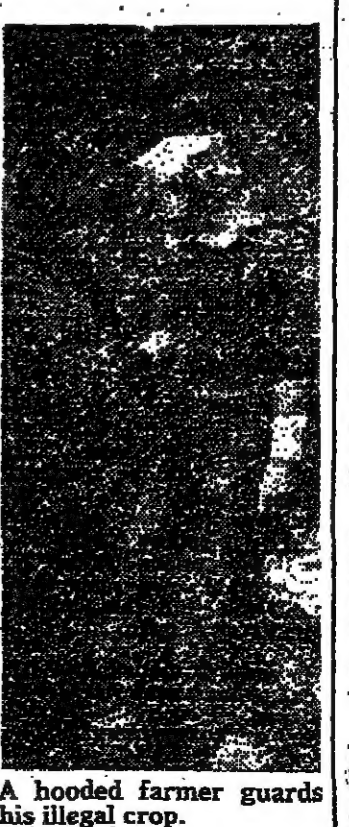
"I do not believe marijuana activity is on the decline," he says. "There are thousands of acres being used to grow the stuff, and drug agents have only been able to hit the tip of that iceberg."

However, Captain Blanchard does say that the crackdown in America's most populous state has forced some growers to move their operations to other states, such as Florida and Arkansas.

He also estimates that Colombia makes over \$1,500m a year profit from marijuana shipped to the United States.

Police disagree about the effectiveness of the judicial system once arrests are made in marijuana cases. The Drug Enforcement Agency in Los Angeles says that in 1981 in California 573,000lb of marijuana were seized and some 581 arrests were made. The agency claims a 98 per cent conviction record, but Captain Blanchard says it is impossible to keep track of how many drug growers and traders are convicted.

California growers have been monopolizing the marijuana market recently as a result of developing *sinssemilla*, considered one of the most potent forms of marijuana ever produced. *Sinssemilla* (seedless marijuana) is produced by cutting male marijuana plants to prevent the pollination of female plants. That enables the female plants to store in the buds the tetrahydrocannabinol (cannabis) known as THC, not used to produce seeds, thereby making the plants extremely potent.



A hooded farmer guards his illegal crop.

ANOTHER FIRST.

TIME: 10.35 a.m.
DATE: February 19, 1982
PLACE: Renton, Washington
EVENT: 757 Inaugural Flight

The take-off was perfect. The flight was smooth and noticeably quiet. The landing: precise.

The 757 maiden flight marks another major step into the fuel-efficient era.

For instance, one 757 will save enough fuel in a single year to fly 186 people around the world 12 times.

Airlines throughout the world placed orders for 136 Boeing 757s, with options on another 71 jetliners, even before No. 1 ever left the ground.

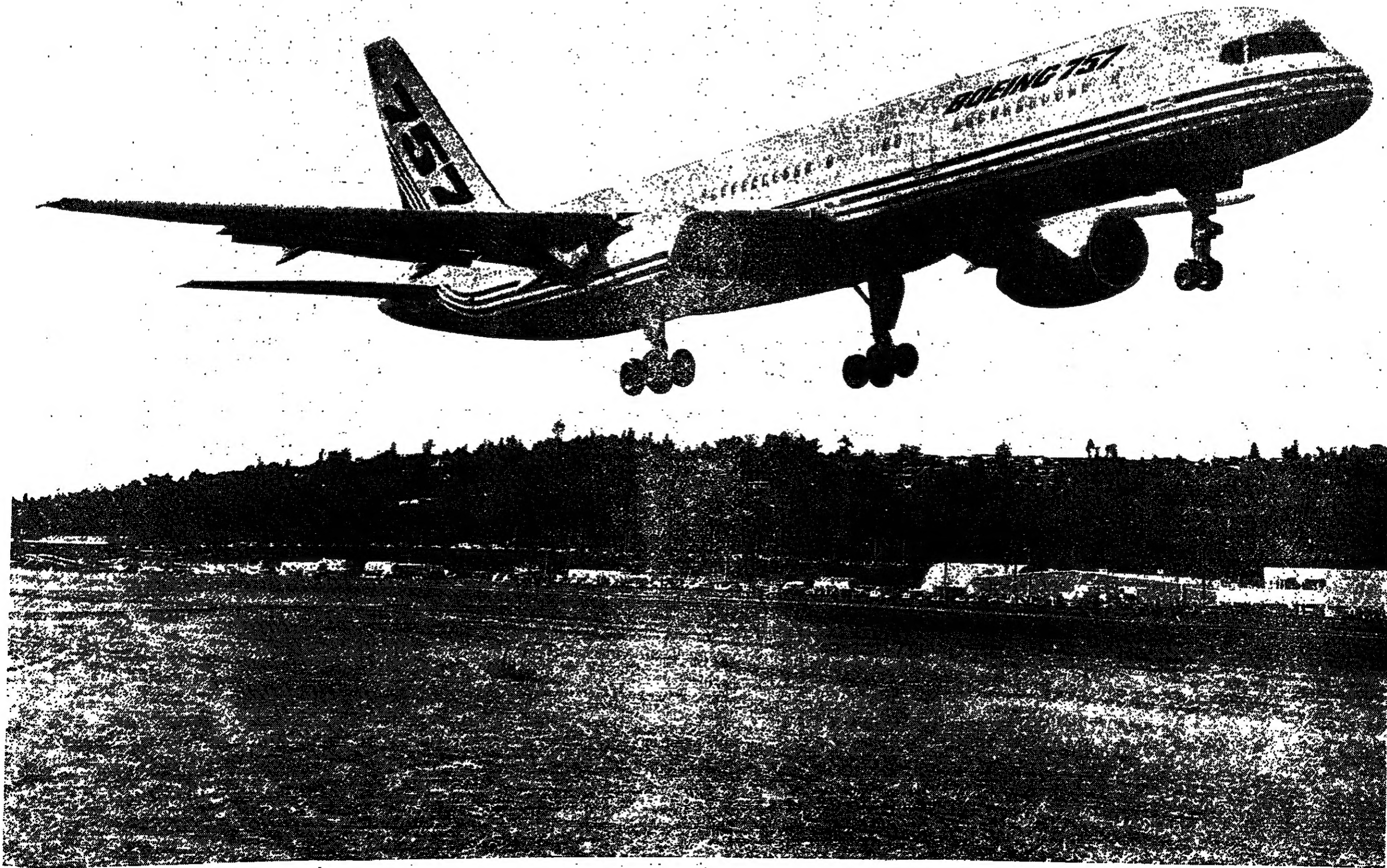
These days, Boeing has a habit of being first. Just five months ago the Boeing 767, another fuel-efficient jetliner, made its inaugural flight. It is scheduled to go into commercial service in September. In early 1983, after rigid certification tests, the 757 will begin to fly passengers.

No other manufacturer has ever made such an enormous investment at one time in engineering skill, people-hours and money.

Soon this commitment will begin to pay off for airlines in new fuel economies.

In addition, it will mean consumers will continue to enjoy flying as one of the world's best travel values.

BOEING
Getting people together.



NEWS IN SUMMARY
Bourguiba ultimatum to Gaddafi
President Bourguiba has asked Gaddafi to merge the two countries into a single state. The document, which was sent to Gaddafi last night, says that the two countries should merge into a single state. The document also says that the two countries should merge into a single state. The document also says that the two countries should merge into a single state.

Seoul presses peace talks
The two sides took a step towards peace talks. The two sides took a step towards peace talks. The two sides took a step towards peace talks. The two sides took a step towards peace talks. The two sides took a step towards peace talks.

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Israel accuses Western media of distortion

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb 25

The Israeli Government has embarked on a campaign designed to show up alleged double standards by western news organizations in their reporting of events in Israel and the occupied territories as opposed to the Arab world, particularly Lebanon and Syria.

The campaign appears to have been prompted by the recent showing in America of an ABC documentary *Under the Israeli Thumb* highly critical of Israeli policy in the occupied West Bank. Tonight the documentary was reshowed by Jordan television, which is widely watched by viewers in Israel and the West Bank.

The drive began earlier this month with an interview given by the director of the government press office, Mr Ze'ev Chafetz. The whole issue has now been referred for discussion by the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee after a sparsely attended parliamentary debate this week.

The number of newspapers, broadcasting companies and news agencies, including the BBC, Reuters, The New York Times and the Washington Post, have been accused of deliberately suppressing news about intimidation of their correspondents in Lebanon by Palestinians or Syrians.

Israeli officials have also hinted that the critical ABC documentary could be directly attributed to the brutal murder last year of Mr Sean

Toolan, an ABC employee working in Beirut. Despite claims by journalists on the spot that Mr Toolan's murder was probably attributable to personal matters, or a robbery, the Israelis imply that it was a direct reaction to an earlier ABC film hostile to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The main thrust of the Israeli argument is that news organizations have distorted their coverage of events in the Middle East because of Palestinian and Syrian threats against their correspondents.

Ironically, the campaign has been launched at a time when the Foreign Press Association in Israel is engaged in a campaign of its own against the Israeli authorities over the continuation of military censorship.

Experienced correspondents based in Jerusalem who have worked in Lebanon and Syria claim that the Israeli campaign is exaggerated, particularly in relation to the PLO, which often chooses for its own reasons to protect journalists. But it is acknowledged that the Syrian authorities have been responsible for threatening and in some cases initiating attacks against reporters.

Inside Israel, the public has responded enthusiastically to the Government's allegations, which have reinforced local suspicions that much of the world's media is biased against Israel.

To add to the Israeli suspicions, The New York Times, whose Jerusalem correspondent, Mr David Shipper, conducted the original interview with Mr Chafetz — omitted reference to the abduction of two of its own correspondents in Lebanon when it carried the interview, which had already been reported in full by the International Herald Tribune. The omission has now been rectified, and sections of a report on the abduction by Mr John Kifner, the paper's Beirut correspondent, was quoted in the Knesset debate.

Similarly the Israelis have angrily accused the BBC of deliberately refusing to carry a report by its Jerusalem correspondent, Mr Michael Elkins, about the government allegations. According to the original Israeli version, two BBC correspondents in Beirut, Mr Tim Llewellyn and Mr Jim Muir, were hurriedly switched to a new base in Cyprus in the summer of 1980 after Syrian threats had been passed on to London via Damascus. The switch followed soon after Mr Llewellyn had reported on an assassination attempt against President Assad of Syria.

Dr Elihu Ben-Eliezer, the chairman of the foreign affairs and defence committee gave a number of specific examples during his Knesset speech. "The atmosphere of terror surrounding journalists in Beirut gets thicker and thicker", he told deputies.

Troops cut off Druze villages in Golan

From Our Own Correspondent Jerusalem, Feb 25

Four Druze Arab villages on the Golan Heights were sealed off by troops at dawn today as the Israelis stepped up efforts to break the 12-day old general strike by the 12,500-strong community against the annexation of the Syrian territory.

At the same time, lawyers have appealed to the Amnesty International on behalf of five leading members of the Muslim sect who were placed under detention this month.

An Israeli Army spokesman said the decision to seal off the villages was taken for security reasons. Israeli radio later said it had also been made to prevent Israeli left-wingers from entering the villages to encourage the strikers and provide supplies.

None of the villages, except the few still prepared to go to work in Israel, are allowed to leave. Neither can journalists enter the area.

Pro-Israeli Druzes on the Golan have been shunned by the rest of their community. Today the Jerusalem Post reported that one of the most prominent pro-Israeli Golan Arabs, Mr Salim Abu Saleh, had become a labourer on a Jewish settlement after the Druzes boycotted his insurance agency.

The paper also said an opinion poll showed that 66 per cent of Israelis approved the Golan annexation and 27 per cent opposed it.

Coup plot trial

Spain's two worlds square up

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 25

A line of tiled roof hunches, looking amazingly like the castles in India left behind by the British Army, is the first thing you notice as you reach the heavily guarded military area six miles south-west of here where Spain's coup plot trial is now proceeding.

The well-painted officers' houses with their neat gardens provide a stark contrast with the seedy flat blocks on the outskirts of Madrid rushed up during the boom years of Franco. You have entered another world.

Everything at the court martial emphasizes this sense of isolation, this cantonment world. It begins with the rigid body searches. Civil Guards took away the radio I had brought.

No wonder there is tension between this old-fashioned cantonment world and the 50 or so Spanish journalists covering the trial. With only about 10 members of the public admitted daily, the journalists represent the forces of a younger, open society.

The hot stage of the court martial — the replies in cross-examination of the accused and the threatened revelations of the defence counsel — has yet to be reached, but already the danger signs are up for the civilian press.

Senior Flo Cabanillas, the Justice Minister, refused to intervene when asked by MP's about the expulsion of Señor Pedro Ramirez, the 29-



Señor Ramirez, Editor of Diario 16, expelled from court.

year-old editor of *Diario 16* for publishing allegations on the anniversary of the coup about the conduct in Parliament on the night of the coup of one of the accused.

As *El País*, the independent Madrid daily, surmised it may have been unthinkable that Lieutenant-General Luis Alvarez Rodriguez, the 65-year-old president of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, should have ordered three generals to appear handcuffed in court, accompanied by 29 other officers, after they had all refused to appear in protest over the newspaper allegations.

The state television broadcast on the court martial story might be world-famous, but the seizure of Parliament and the demand, two days later, of Señor Landelino Lavilla, speaker of the Lower House, for all responsible for the outrage to be brought to account.

Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero, who led the Civil Guard into Parliament, looks well at the trial. He was heard as he left one session exultantly commenting how he regretted not having killed General Goyena, the only member of the coup who was not a member of the coup.

Colonel Tejero has sought to involve Queen Sofia, the daughter of the late King Paul and Queen Frederica of the Hellenes, as well as King Juan Carlos, in written testimony he claimed that Queen Sofia allegedly told General Alfonso Armada at a Pyrenean skiing resort several weeks before the coup attempt: "You are the only one, Alfonso, who can save us".

Two leading members of the ruling Centre Democratic Party, contacted between sittings, vigorously defended the King and Queen from the frequently heard defence charge that they allegedly sympathized with coup preparations.

Failure by Shamir on two big issues

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Feb 25

Egypt and Israel, ending three days of negotiations today, announced some progress, but failed to make headway on two issues important to Israel — a date for President Mubarak's proposed visit and a declaration of principles for Palestinian autonomy.

Mr Mubarak's visit is symbolically important to Israel as an indication, Israeli diplomatic sources say, that Egypt will remain friendly after the scheduled withdrawal from Sinai on April 26.

The Israeli Government is also eager to sign the declaration of principles while it still sees the presence of its troops as potential leverage in the negotiations, these sources indicate.

But after a 75-minute meeting with Mr Mubarak, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, told reporters that although he was sure the visit would take place, the "timing and details will continue to be discussed". He repeated the statement later during a joint press conference with Mr Kamel Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

Egyptian sources have said that before committing itself to a date, Egypt sought assurances from Israel that it would not embark on any move that might embarrass the Egyptian leader, as President Sadat was embassied when Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear plant three days after his meeting with Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister.

Both countries remain far apart on autonomy, which was underlined by statements from both ministers. Mr Shamir said that in Israel's view, the Palestinians already had a state in Jordan, and that autonomy for the 1.3 million living under Israeli rule was a separate issue.

The Egyptian minister replied: "It is not for Egypt of Israel to change the map of the world. Jordan is Jordan. We (Egypt and Israel) have to continue discussing our differences."

Mr Shamir said Israel had a document on principles of autonomy, which was an "impressive and sound basis" for the self-rule of the Palestinians.

Egyptian sources say that during the talks with Mr Shamir, Egypt pointed out that it would not sign a declaration which failed to give full judicial, legislative and executive powers to the Palestinians, and would continue to seek a moratorium on Israeli settlements and means of internationalizing Jerusalem.

Mr Shamir said: "Despite our differences in view, it is my conviction that peace (between Egypt and Israel) will continue after April 26."

□ Tel Aviv: The opposition Labour Party today declined to join the ruling Likud coalition in a government of national unity. The central committee overwhelmingly endorsed a letter to Mr Begin from Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, rejecting the invitation to open negotiations (Moshe Brilliant writes).

However, Mr Peres said Labour had agreed to join Likud's coalition in a declaration to the United States to explain Israel's opposition to the sale of advanced weapons to Jordan.

India and Pakistan sour again

From Trevor Fishlock Delhi, Feb 25

The new initiative by India and Pakistan to bring some trust and understanding to their strained relationship has quickly soured.

India withdrew today from the second round of talks on a non-aggression pact, due to start on Monday, because it is upset by remarks about Kashmir made by a Pakistani diplomat last week. India is adamant that the disputed region is a matter between the two countries and should not be raised elsewhere.

It was not publicly mentioned when the two sides met in Delhi three weeks ago to start talking about a non-aggression agreement. The talks ended on a note of guarded optimism and another round was fixed for Islamabad. These have been postponed indefinitely.

Last week Mr Agha Hilaly, Pakistan's United Nations representative, Human Rights Commission in Geneva, apparently likened the Kashmir question to the Palestinian one.

India's reaction seems to be overdue — it may be that it took the opportunity offered by an affront that was not very serious to withdraw from a process initiated by Pakistan and filled with contradictions and difficulties.

Mr Narasimha Rao, the Indian Foreign Minister, told Parliament today that the remarks were "objectionable and contentious" and that it was inconceivable they had been made without prior approval of the Pakistan Government.

China opens drive to export its workers

From Peter Humphrey, Hong Kong, Feb 25

Details of a big Chinese drive to export workers to contract labourers all over the world have begun to emerge in Hong Kong as a result of newspaper investigations.

Questions over the extent of the Chinese programme, which according to the middlemen involved will result in an expatriate workforce of more than two million earning billions of pounds in foreign currency by the end of the decade, were raised after recent disclosures by the *South China Morning Post* of "poor living conditions" among a small group of Chinese contract workers in Hong Kong.

The 50 workers engaged on Hong Kong Electric's \$185,500m (235,000) Lam Tin power station project, were reported to be living in squalid dormitories and undernourished. They claimed they were receiving monthly only between \$HK2,000 and \$HK3,000.

The subcontractor employing them, Ryden Electric Engineering Ltd., is officially paying wages between \$HK2,000 and \$HK3,500, plus a daily \$HK2 food allowance, for their work on the steel structure installation. Ryden pays the wages not directly to the workers but to the state-owned Chinese firm which hired them out, China Overseas Building Development Co Ltd (COBD).

COBD disputed the workers' claim, saying that they received 80 per cent of their wages: 40 per cent in Hong Kong and 40 per cent in China. The company took 20 per cent for expenses.

COBD is the Hong Kong subsidiary of the Peking-based China Construction Engineering Corporation (CCEC), which specializes in overseas construction projects and which is registered under China's General Administration Bureau of Industry and Commerce.

The subsidiary sought to erase the adverse publicity by explaining that the workers were in Hong Kong only for training.

The *South China Morning Post* followed the trail of the Chinese corporation and its subsidiaries through 13,000 workers in the Middle East to a pending deal involving 100,000 Chinese for South Korean firms.

Last year the corporation claimed that 2,000 of its 100,000 staff were overseas on contracts won through competitive international tender. Since 1957 it had completed 475 projects in 56 countries, covering a total building area of 4,842,556 square metres.

The substance of these early deals was political, an element of China's Third World foreign policy. But the undertaking of international contracts by competitive tender and China's success in winning 40 contracts worth nearly \$HK500m in 1980 heralded a pragmatic new era. This focuses chiefly on the lucrative Middle East.

An official of the Shanghai Labour Bureau, Mr Zhang Zhiyang, stated last month that 60 per cent of the city's youth who entered the job market last year are still awaiting employment, some 10 million youth enter the job market each year. Chinese wages average little more than £17 a month.



KEEP FARES FAIR

To the 92 MPs of Greater London.

The Fares Fair Policy, introduced for Londoners on October 4th 1981, was meant to make the public transport systems more accessible to everyone. It increased efficiency through greater use of the available services. It allowed simpler, lower fares.

On March 21st 1982, fares will go up, signalling the end of what was a bold and imaginative piece of planning.

If nothing is done before March 21st, there will be some dramatic changes to the costs and quality of working and travelling in London. Fares will double. Uneconomic tube stations may close. Some bus services may have to go altogether. All services will be reduced.

Higher fares will result in more people driving to work, simply because their car will be cheaper to use. London's streets will be more jammed. There will be more rogue parking. More chaos. More accidents.

Is that fair on London?

Most other cities in the modern world have decided long ago that public transport is a social service. As much a social service as hospitals and education.

New York subsidises to the tune of 72% of costs, excluding depreciation and renewal costs.

On the same basis, the figure for Milan is 71%. Brussels 70%. Paris 56%.

London, with the Fares Fair Policy, subsidised its public transport system by 46% — still way down in the League Table.

And, following the rulings of the Court of Appeal and the Law Lords, the subsidy figure for London's public transport will fall, after March 21st, to as little as 12%.

The cost of Fares Fair to the London taxpayer was almost doubled by the penalties imposed by the Government withholding block grant.

Is this fair on Londoners?

The issue of London's public transport system demands your immediate attention. It is not a political "football". It is a social issue with enormous implications on the present and future quality of life in London.

Changes to the law are necessary. Rational thinking makes that fact obvious.

Do you know how your own constituents feel about London Transport? Its value to the community as a whole? Its relevance to working and living in London in 1982? As taxpayers, as travellers — as Londoners?

We are asking them to contact you. Give them a fair hearing. And, as their elected representatives, act on their behalf for the good of London.

If you think your MP may miss this announcement, why not send it to him expressing your views? Fill in the coupon.

To: The Member of Parliament for...
House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA.
I call on the Government to take immediate action to enable the GLC to maintain its present low fares policy without any reduction in services.

NAME

ADDRESS

GLC

Working for London

Tell your MP to act NOW!

The Labour Party's phoney peace

There is no particular mystery about what has been going on — endless commentators, to say nothing of a vast academic

polls show, that constituency delegates to recent Labour Party conferences have been overwhelmingly in the middle-class social and economic brackets and

Similarly, in the case of the ideological challenge, it is no use proscribing the Militant Tendency (although that would certainly be a step forward). Its members would soon regroup and reappear in the same places, with the same aims and opinions but in a slightly different guise. The real need is to investigate all the existing "parties within the party" (the Rank and File Coordinating Committee, the London Labour Briefing, and all the rest) and declare that they are in contravention of Clause 2 of the constitution.

man, and sprang at the polls. If, on the other hand, he keeps mum and lets the left-wing strategy (of intimidating the Parliamentary Labour Party in the short run and transforming its composition in the long) proceed on its inexorable course, then he is damned by another route. First, his support, such as it is, in the Commons would be badly eroded in the next election. More immediately, however, he cannot expect the right wing to stay silent while the left is allowed to go on picking it off. There will be a flaming row that way, as well; and it is rapidly gaining in volume and intensity. Whether it would harm the Labour Party more at the polls than the other sort of row is a moot point. There cannot be much in it, and though it has become fashionable in the last month or so to predict a speedy Labour revival from now on, I would not put much money on it.

The Filkins says just after a prominent Miami union leader disappeared without a trace. The head of the criminalizing crime task force, operating nowhere in his investigation, "thinks up a ruse to get information out of the underworld. Michael Gallagher is the ruse. He is the fall-guy: his father and he are known to have been in the Mafia and the police think Gallagher has made ends in the right (ie, wrong) places. So the police think Gallagher is a (bogus) investment into him. When Reagan Carter is deliberately set off that the police are someone in their sights regarding the union leader's disappearance and she visits the police chief in his office. He says he doesn't support no movement," but then leaves Gallagher in his office, on a prolonged excuse, with the police chief on Gallagher con-

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 to overflowing

Peace Bob Woodward, there does seem to be fair fertile ground for *Absence of Malice* to take root in. And some papers, like *Time* Inc., are fighting it and have, for instance, begun counter-attacking individuals and organizations who are believed to have sued them maliciously.

At this point you are no doubt thinking that we are treating *Absence of Malice* like some of the Washington scavies, and, as Bradlee says, depending as much time on it as the schools devote to *Hanlder*. But this is the last word of Pollack. "Heck, this isn't a documentary, a documentary could have been different. This is fiction wrapped around a newspaper. And a love story."

Peter Watson

[illegible]

Why Nicosia is so glad to see Papandreou

But how can Papandreou help the Cypriots in practice? I put that question to Greek Cypriot leaders of various factions during a visit last month. None of them, I found, was under the illusion that northern Cyprus can be "liberated" from the Turks by force, with or without Greek help. Many do consider, however, that it is important to strengthen their defenses so that they can resist any Turkish attempt to

that greater flexibility is needed on their side too. The Greek Cypriots indirectly confirm this when they complain that previous Greek governments allowed themselves to be used as an instrument of international pressure for Greek Cypriot concessions, and rejoice that Andreou seems unlikely to play that role. It seems, however, that Mr Andreou, while not conceding his scepticism about the chance of

thens for further consultations in advance of his own visit to Cyprus, amid a spate of rumours about a new initiative by one or more European powers. These rumours are apparently at least premature, and the Greek Cypriots are prepared

It is very hard to find a Turkish Cypriot, even among those who most fiercely oppose Mr Denktas and are most eager to solve the intercommunal conflict, who would agree that this is the only kind of security to be considered. It is true that the Turkish Cypriots, living in an island where they are not negotiating as competitors but as free agents. But it is also true that they are unlikely to join Greek Cypriots in calling for Turkish withdrawal so long as the Cypriots show so little understanding of the reasons why they welcomed the arrival of Turkish forces in 1974.

The film opens just after a prominent Miami union leader has disappeared without a trace. The head of the organized crime task force, getting nowhere in his investigation, thinks up a ruse to flush information out of the underworld. Michael Gallagher is by the way, one of the fall-guy: his father and uncle are known to have been in the Mafia and the police chief thinks Gallagher has friends in the right (ie, wrong) places. So the police chief offers a (bogus) investigation to him.

Megan Carter is deliberately messed up so that the police can have someone in their sights regarding the union leader's disappearance and she visits the police chief in his office. The police chief offers to "commute" but then leaves her in his office, on a pre-arranged excuse, with the police on Gallagher con-

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Peter Watson

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Who will we see at the turnstile?

Page, whose enemies term him the Pol Pot of British journalism, leaves at Great Turnstile two obvious staff candidates for the succession. Anna Coote, the deputy editor, would carry it by acclamation if it were left to the Bread and Marmite People's Front. Peter Kellner, a pleasant person, would unfortunately fill the pages with graphs and charts, thus depressing circulation even further. They have thought of an SDP-style solution in which they would share the job.

Over the moon

Boxing clever

London's orchestras are trying to price the ticket touts out of business. The top price for tickets for a Luciano Pavarotti gala performance for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall on 13 will be £100. That will apply to boxes in the grand tier and the first six rows in the arena which are, as you might say, within spitting distance of the stage.

On the other hand 1,000 seats at £2.50 each are reserved in the

Open secret

We have intelligence of intelligence. The Y Service of wartime days has its first reunion at the House of Commons on Monday. These are the code-breakers and signal interceptors who kept Churchill's war cabinet informed of German and Italian moves, including Hitler's attack on Russia, long before they happened.

Fifty-eight veterans will attend, including Tom Normanton, Conservative MP for Chesham. The guest of honour at the celebratory lunch will be Brigadier L.A.W. (Laurie) New, deputy director of military intelligence, who will toast the Y Service. The speaker will come from Brigadier B. A. H. Parritt, present director of the Intelligence

Second win

For the second time Mary Lascelles, former vice-principal of the temporary fellow of Somerville College, is a winner of the Rose Mary Crawshaw prize administered by the British Academy.

Lascelles previously won the prize for *Jane Austen and her Art* in 1940. This year she shares it with Annabelle Terhune, the American who edited the letters of Edward Fitzgerald. The prize is for historical or critical work about English literature, with women of any nationality, with preference, because of the original endowment, given to work concerning Byron, Shelley or Keats.

Lascelles, though, returned to the winners' lists with *The Storyteller retrieves the past*, a book devoted to the historical fiction of Scott, Stevenson and Kipling.

Goodbye sailor

The sale of HMS Invincible to Australia will be held in Durham city, the Hall School in Swiss Cottage, the Falkland Islands Association, sea cadets in Chorley and the Royal Family. The carrier had built up a formidable list of affiliations. (The complete list also includes the British Life Insurance Association, the Light Infantry, Durham School CCF and the Sector Operations Centre, RAF Buchan. The ship is also, of course, the one to which Prince Andrew is attached as a helicopter pilot.

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Matthewman has been timed at 111 stitches a minute, and in one year knitted 915 jumpers using 11,000 ounces of wool, equivalent to the fleeces of 85 sheep.

disappointed not to have an official invitation. He was a "Headache Operator" during the war, feeding HQ with intercepted Axis messages from a station in Malta.

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Lord Montagu unfortunately cannot yet support his assertion, which was based on research by

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FOOD IS POWER

Once again the Soviet Union has turned to the West to make good its economic failures. For the third year in a row the Russian harvest has been so bad that the country is being forced to use western supplies to make up the difference. We ought not to let it do so unless they are willing to show greater military restraint around the world.

Reports from the Soviet Union, such as the one carried in *The Times* yesterday suggest that this year's crop in Russia has been even worse than in previous years. The Russians are expected to need about 42 million tonnes of grain of all kinds to feed their people at the abysmally low standard to which they have become accustomed.

Last year's harvest in the West was a good one so we have not yet seen sharp upsurge in prices of a kind which happened in the early 1970s. But the risks on which we should have to rely if bad weather produces a crop failure here are being, quite literally, laid up by Kremlin-imposed efficiency of Soviet farming. hat do we get out of this?

For farmers in the American heartland, the grain exporting companies the attractions of their views has prevented President Reagan feeling that he can go on the back on the grain during the 1980 election campaign not use a grain embargo of a kind which "resident" can impose.

One of the arguments used then against the embargo was that it was sidestepped by other countries, who just sold the grain (the Soviet Union

in place of the American suppliers. That argument is much weaker in the face of a Soviet crisis of such proportions. The United States has such a stranglehold on the world grain market that the Soviets would not be able to find alternative sources of supply. Nor, if it were effectively policed, could an embargo be evaded on the necessary scale for the Soviets to get round it. The impracticality of argument, always used as the first line of defence by those whose hearts are not in an issue, does not hold water.

Nor does the idea that the Americans are just sticking to contracts which they must honour. The nature of the embargoes imposed by governments for political reasons is that they interfere with normal trade. If there is no trade to interfere with, there is no point in the embargo.

There have been two major issues of contention between the west and the Soviet Union over the past two years. They are the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and Soviet intervention in Poland. The western response to both has been feeble and has missed the one sanction that could have had an effect.

It has been fashionable in the past to say that the Soviet Union is always prepared, given the choice, to sacrifice goods from the west if it asked to pay a political price. The record does not show this. If used properly, the trade carrot-and-stick can work with the Russians. It certainly would have its greatest effect if based on the food weapon, for Soviet society has changed enough for the threat of severe food

shortages to make even the Kremlin pause.

Most of the grain needed for this year has probably already been bought by the Russians. Their hectic activity in the world's gold and oil markets is a sure sign they have been spending heavily.

Yet one thing we can be sure of is that they will be back again. Central direction and good farming do not go together. The Soviet Union cannot persist with the delusion that they have had luck with their harvests. It is chronic inefficiency in its agricultural sector from which they suffer, and that is not bad luck but bad management, and a real cause for concern.

We ought not to be protecting the Soviet leaders from the consequences of their unwillingness to change from a warfare state to an agrarian one. The tumult on the oil market in the 1970s awakened us to the fact that raw materials are vital strategic weapons. No raw material is as vital as food and those western countries which have been able so easily to feed themselves have been ready to forget that fact.

Constant sales of grain to the Russians are bad for us, because they keep prices here high they are bad for the rest of the world, because countries which have real problems feeding themselves suffer from Russia's self-inflicted socialist wounds; and bad for Russia because they postpone change. The Soviet Union knows perfectly well that its dependence on our food production is a major and constant source of weakness. We should show them that we know that too.

PARENTS HAVE DUTIES TOO

It is piquant that the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the use of the cane or tawse in schools should come in the week that a Toxteth school has been closed because of the violence of nine and 10 year olds. It is the teacher, not the pupils, who have been intimidated in Toxteth — and they are too frequently sink schools in other urban areas. It would be natural therefore to feel some irritation with those who feel that any vestige of discipline is somehow demeaning to the individual, and some sympathy with teachers who have expressed dismay at the difficulties and tensions it may cause. It is to be emphasized, therefore, that the European Court did not find caning to be torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Specifically refused to do so. And it would be quite out of proportion to regard judgment as representing me special indictment of a country as a haven for child beating. Parts of Germany and Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and most of the United States still practise it.

The judgment was more about the rights of parents than it was about corporal punishment and here the reasoning of the Court is persuasive in the light of the European Treaty on Human Rights. Article 2 says that no one should be denied the right of education and that the State assumes the teaching burden, it must respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching is in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions. Parents who are their children's right in conformity with their beliefs and parents who

are against corporal punishment for their children are entitled to have that conviction respected. It is not necessary for the parents to prove if they could, as anti-caning campaigners claim, that it produces fear and resentment which destroy the chance of establishing a relationship of trust and respect and thereby inhibits or ruins the possibility of learning. A great many well-educated parents today emerged from the odd caning or strapping without ill effect. But a conviction against corporal punishment does relate to a weighty and substantial aspect of human life and behaviour, namely the integrity of the person, as the Court puts it, and does denote a view which has obtained a level of cogency, seriousness and cohesion, so that it deserves to be regarded with respect as a philosophical conviction. It is more than a mere view on teaching methods or discipline.

The decision, which must be respected for its cogency in law and by reason of our respect for the treaty, nonetheless poses problems. The British Government, which is affected by the ruling just as are all European governments, has argued that it preferred to phase out the use of caning as a consensus developed. That is still a respectable approach. The Lord Advocate Lord MacKay was surely exaggerating, as are the anti-caning campaigners, in arguing that a decision in favour of the two moths would mean segregation of schools into those which administer corporal punishment and those which did not. The concept of beating and non-beating schools is ludicrous. The campaigners argue, therefore, that the Government should simply outlaw caning in schools

altogether on the grounds that it would be unfair to discriminate between parents whose children had opted for caning and parents whose children were opposed. But this argument, too, is not conclusive; it is awkward certainly, but the problem facing the educational authorities is no different from coping with the different religious requirements in schools. (One of the practical difficulties at classroom level is that many teachers find their most troublesome pupils are those whose parents are most insistent that nobody should lay a hand on Johnny, though they may themselves, in anger, do just that. There is only one answer for this which is that the unruly child should be suspended from school or receive restricted privileges so that the parents have to cope with the problem of discipline which must largely have originated within the home.) And children must not be allowed back into school without the parents attending and being reminded of their responsibilities. The teachers' organizations have a case here in arguing that there is a role for counsellors to come between the embattled teacher and the embittered parent.

In accepting that the judgment is sound, one must regret that it might reinforce the secular fashion which denies too often that the individual must not only be responsible for his actions but must accept the penalties of actions that are anti-social or self-indulgent. It is a pity that the European Court could not accompany the right of a parent to protect their children from corporal punishment with a corresponding duty to bring up children in a disciplined enough way to make it more likely that they respect authority at school.

Legal precedence

From Mrs J. K. Gundy
The Reverend John Pollock (February 18) refers to the close association of both Lord Denning and the Pollock family with the lawyers' Christian Fellowship (formerly the Lawyers' Prayer Union).

While interest and dispute may continue over its longevity it is interesting to note that this fellowship can claim an undisturbed 130 years of active existence. Our records contain the following brief but intriguing extracts from the diary of John MacGregor who was one of the founding members:

551, Jan 1. Called to the Bar, Temple.
552, Jan 7. First brief as a barrister.
552, Enlisted in Temple Volunteers.
553, Stated Lawyers' Prayer Union.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE CUNDY, Secretary,
the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship,
70 Sheen Lane,
East Sheen SW14,
February 2.

Health data protection

From Mr Michael Rigby
Sir, Your otherwise very commendable article on computer applications in the Health Service in your recent supplement on information technology (January 14) failed to identify the limitations to developments caused by the continuing lack of British legislation on data protection. This is of particular concern for computer applications in community health services.

Unfortunately, in highlighting the pre-school child health project as an example of confidentiality problems, your feature contained misinformation. The Child Health Computing Committee has agreed to a request from the British Medical Association that the computer programs completed in mid-1981 should be scrutinized by independent experts, and meanwhile preparations for trials were suspended. Such analysis shows that the programs were secure within pre-existing proposals for their use, and would not change. The British Medical Association has now approved implementation of trials, which should commence in mid-1982.

However, lack of statutory confidentiality safeguards re-

mains a major problem. Marcel Berlins, elsewhere in your supplement, emphasized the need for legislation to implement the main recommendations of the Lindop report and to bring Britain into line with the rest of Western Europe. In this context the particular sanctity of medical information needs recognition. It is also surprising that there is no overall National Health Service code of practice relating to confidentiality, though there is an honoured tradition of respecting confidentiality information.

In view of Government support for Information Technology Year it is to be hoped that a suitable data-protection Act will be passed by Parliament during the current session. At the same time, the forthcoming restructuring of the NHS provides opportunity for health authorities to introduce confidentiality and security protocols, recognized in employment contracts, concerning both manual and computer records.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RIGBY,
Vice-Chairman,
Child Health Computing Committee,
Cheshire Area Health Authority,
PO Box 41,
Lightfoot Street,
Chester.

Grylls plan for industry loans

From the Secretary-General of the Committee of London Clearing Bankers
Sir, In his report on Michael Grylls's scheme for reducing industry's borrowing costs (February 19), your reporter, George Brock, correctly says that the banks are reserving their position until they know a great deal more about how the scheme would work. In view of the wider issues raised in the report, may I amplify this point a little?

The Grylls scheme appears designed to reduce companies' annual debt repayments in two distinct ways. One is by allowing interest to be paid on a net-of-tax basis. The other is by extending the term of years for which banks lend. The arguments involved are quite separate.

On the former point, I would only warn against excessive optimism about the scheme's new investment that would follow from the ability to pay interest net, in view of all the other factors currently holding industry back.

My main concern, however, is with the suggestion that companies should be able to invest not just by the tax position, but also by the need to repay their bank debt too swiftly. The wildly misleading graph accompanying the report shows "typical repayment terms" of three years and "typical maturities" of seven years. The fact that companies can already borrow from their banks for seven, 10 or even 20 years if they so wish is totally overlooked.

The report also gives further credence to the claim that German and Japanese companies are able to borrow for much longer periods than British ones. There is absolutely no justification for this claim. Indeed, Japanese bank lending actually has a much greater short-term component than British bank lending. Of course, Japanese banks often allow their short-term loans to be rolled over, but so do British banks.

If the Government decides that the present tax arrangements are inhibiting industrial investment, then by all means let them be changed. But that decision should be taken on its own merits, and not as the by-product of unfounded criticisms of bank lending practices.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE PRIESTLEY,
The Committee of London Clearing Bankers,
1 Lombard Street, EC3,
February 25.

Immigrant 'confessions'

From Mr Ian Martin
Sir, You report (February 16) that members of the Home Affairs Committee were told during their recent visit to Bangladesh of "2,600 cases of fraud last year".

It is not clear from your report that these are the figures for "tax confessions" — the number of wives and children falsely declared to the Inland Revenue for the purpose of claiming tax allowances. The subcommittee appears not to have been told how many of these alleged confessions related to people for whom entry into Britain is not admitted.

In giving evidence to the subcommittee we expressed the hope that the MPs would obtain this further information. We are certain that many of the "tax confessions" relate to falsely declared wives and children for whom no attempt is made to obtain entry, and it would therefore be quite wrong if your readers misunderstood the figures cited as an estimate of immigration fraud rather than tax fraud.

Three other points should be made. First, where false tax claims were made, it was usually 15 to 20 years ago, by whom? Second, the entry clearance officers sometimes say that they will admit younger children if older children are admitted to be "bogus", we believe that some parents in their desperation "confess" genuine children to be non-existent.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MARTIN,
General Secretary,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1,
February 18.

Specialized taste

From Mr Nicholas Holgate
Sir, May I congratulate you on your "Great European Eaters"? Too few newspaper articles make me grit my teeth and then burst out laughing, but the abridged fastidiousness of your gourmet does just that. From M Courtenay's comment (February 13) that English cooking "exists" to Herr von Paczensky's complaint (February 20) that fish dishes are spoilt by "that certain fishy taste", we have a glorious caricature of critical reviewing.

I also liked the phrase "a discovery which compels me to actually recommend it". The combination of esoteric delving and split infinitive was most refreshing.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HOLGATE,
Trinity College,
Cambridge,
February 20.

TV broadcasting by satellite

From the Chairman of the British Broadcasting Corporation
Sir, Television by satellite presents broadcasters with immense opportunities for services to the public. I agree with Lord Aylestone (February 24) that the potential for British industry is very great. If Britain does not enter the field in the very near future, that potential is never likely to be realised.

Up to now, I believe we and the IBA have disagreed about the urgency of our involvement. The BBC has, in the last few years, consistently stated that television broadcasting by satellite was a development of great potential with which we wished to be associated. It is surely not surprising that the BBC should seek to be in the forefront of developing new services to the public. We are set up by charter to provide a public service of broadcasting throughout the nation. As methods of broadcasting change it is only proper that we should wish to be involved in extending that public service through new methods of distribution.

The methods of financing such an involvement and the programmes which might be offered are still very much open to discussion. Subscription is, indeed, a new form of financing in this country, but it is well tried elsewhere and we see it as providing a sensible basis for the funding of one BBC satellite channel. It is a method which is in line with our policy of seeking to enhance the licence income upon which we rely for the bulk of our services.

We believe we could provide a service for two channels, one of which would not be financed by subscription (and would be of far wider appeal than the other). We have said as much to the Home Office. Financing, complex though it may be, will, of course, be worked out against what Lord Aylestone properly refers to as our "over-riding responsibility to the public". We have "become men" but we cannot neglect the exciting opportunities presented by new and rapidly changing developments.

I should add that the BBC has never sought a monopoly in this field. If the companies and the IBA seek involvement, they will

no doubt say so to the Home Office; and in turn their plans and proposals will become part of the public debate on which has already been going on for some time. But we shall miss golden opportunities for both industry and broadcasting if action is deferred to allow interminable discussion.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HOWARD,
Chairman, BBC,
Broadcasting House, W1,
February 24.

From Mr Norman Collins
Sir, Lord Aylestone, chairman of the IFA from 1967/75 and an elder statesman of broadcasting, as well as of Westminster, politics is to be thanked for his most timely and important letter of February 24. It is indeed a matter of national concern that the use of the two forthcoming satellite broadcast channels should be allocated in the best interests of the public.

The BBC, with its many other unavoidable commitments and obligations, certainly cannot be regarded as a suitable candidate for the operation of both these channels. Even a channel merely of "repeats" which the BBC is advocating is still bound to prove costly and it should be remembered that it is a matter only of weeks since the corporation was expressing its dismay at a new licence fee of £46 as against the sum of £50 for which it was so urgently asking.

In face of this, the BBC's proposal that it should operate also a subscription television service on a parallel satellite channel is therefore doubly disturbing. Such a venture would not only require both considerable capital outlay and annual running costs but would introduce a new and highly speculative element into the delicate system of BBC financing.

It is profoundly to be hoped that the full parliamentary debates for which Lord Aylestone is asking should take place before any Government decisions are made.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN COLLINS,
Mulberry House,
Church Row, NW3,
February 25.

Britain's nuclear system

From Air Vice-Marshal S. W. B. Menaul
Sir, In his article in today's issue (February 19) Mr David Watt rightly points out that the question, what kind of nuclear force does Britain need as a replacement for the four Polaris submarines, is not a simple one to have divided those responsible for this important decision.

Trident II (D5) will undoubtedly be a very advanced system when it becomes available at the end of this decade, but in my view prohibitively expensive for Britain. The Polaris would be replaced by the idea that only submarine-launched ballistic missiles, whatever the cost, are an acceptable replacement for our small Polaris force, which is our current contribution to Nato nuclear forces.

Alternatives to Trident include air-launched cruise missiles, submarine, surface ship and ground-launched cruise missiles, air-to-ground stand-off missiles and mobile ground-launched ballistic missiles. Britain is not a superpower and does not need superpower nuclear weapons. We are part of Europe and a member of the Nato alliance.

Most of our armed forces are committed to the European theatre, so we must decide what nuclear weapons would be most appropriate as a continuing contribution to Nato nuclear forces in the 1990s and beyond. There should be no question of Britain renouncing unilaterally her ability to maintain a nuclear capability.

We must, however, accept the harsh reality that in the unlikely event of the United States abrogating her commitments to Europe we could not on our own deter a Soviet attack on Europe, including these islands, with nuclear/conventional/chemical weapons. If the United States believes that it needs more than

10,000 warheads, deliverable by three different systems, to deter the Soviet Union from attacks on Europe or the United States in the 1990s and beyond, by what logic do we conclude that we could deter similar attacks with one Trident submarine (128 warheads) when the consequences of firing just one missile would be suicidal if deterrence should fail?

What Britain needs is a theatre nuclear force capable of attacking military targets in the Soviet Union under a realistic strategy, but with the ability to attack cities and industrial complexes if the situation so demanded.

I have recently been discussing this problem with experts in the United States who expressed surprise that Britain should be considering the Trident system at all. In the course of examining alternatives, on the assumption that Britain adopted a realistic nuclear strategy, the most suitable system to replace Polaris would be a modified version of the Pershing 2, with three MIRV warheads and an extended range to include Moscow. In effect an equivalent of the Soviet SS-20, but with superior performance.

The Pershing 2 is a mobile ballistic missile with an accuracy greater than any other ballistic missile yet produced. The cost for, say, 50 missiles (150 warheads) has been estimated at about £800m and would be available by 1988. Such a system would have both a strategic and theatre nuclear capability and would be more appropriate to Britain's needs as a contribution to Nato nuclear forces in the 1990s and beyond, and at a price we can afford.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART MENAUL,
The Lodge,
Frensham Vale,
Lower Bourne,
Farnham, Surrey,
February 19.

Opting out of the NHS

From the Chairman of the Independent Hospital Group
Sir, Your first leader (February 5) included certain generalisations worthy of more detailed comment.

Two of the many functions performed by the Independent Hospital Group are, first, to act as watchdog over what might otherwise deteriorate into an uncontrolled development of private hospitals and, at all times, to preserve a working partnership between the NHS and the independent sector.

With over 10,000 nurses unemployed it is to be hoped that growth in the number of private hospitals will play a part in generating new job opportunities.

To date I have seen little evidence to support the allegation that private hospitals bribe or poach staff from the NHS; the majority of such hospitals are operated by organisations — such as Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust with its 32 acute units — whose policy it is to employ nursing staff on conditions identical to those detailed by the Whitley Council scales.

Your leader ignored the fact that several training facilities already exist in the private sector. For example, NNHT has already this year established a new Joint Board of Clinical Nursing Studies course for operating-theatre nurses. This course is open to suitable candidates from both the NHS and independent organisations. Encouraged by the present

Government the private sector is constantly examining additional ways in which it can help with the further education of nurses.

Finally, on the subject of training, there is often more emotion than logic in any discussion; it is necessary to remember the many people in this country (other than nurses) who are trained at the state's expense.

It is seriously being said that anyone who has been trained by the state must only work for the state.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER ROWELL, Chairman,
The Independent Hospital Group Limited,
Rowell House,
15-17 Essex Street, WC2,
February 8.

Mite of comfort
From Mrs C. E. Johnston
Sir, Through the window envelope of a letter received today I saw "Refund of overpaid rates" and I toyed briefly with the idea of, say, Monte Carlo on the proceeds — very briefly, for the sum concerned turned out to be £0.01. But perhaps it was childish of me not to welcome the news that I may either offset it against next year's rates, or (on completion of an application form and payment of at least 12½p postage, of course) may even have the 1p refunded in full.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE E. JOHNSTON,
18 Titchwell Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW18,
February 20.

Meeting objections to Oxford

From the Principal of Westfield College
Sir, Dr Harry Judge is uncharacteristically original in his analysis (February 24) of what he calls the "new Oxford snobbery". For all says little which was not being said, in its essence, 20 years ago.

May I therefore contribute a thought which, I dare to say, was not in people's minds in, say, the late 1950s but which I believe is now a potent factor in our evolving society and (in particular) in the field of higher education?

Within these two decades the attitudes of young people, and particularly of those who move from school into higher education, have changed to become extraordinarily egalitarian (for the want of a better word). There seems to me to be a positive force nowadays towards a common culture, even towards a common manner of speech and mode of dress. "Class" in the sense understood in my own adolescence is from many eyes eschewed and circumvented.

It follows that the average sixth-former of the 1980s may not be as interested as we might otherwise expect in an environment which appears rightly or wrongly to be outstandingly privileged.

On the whole I regret this, even if I have to accept it. I believe that the excellence for which the university world should strive lies as much in the heart of its architecture and in the layout of its gardens, in the quality of its living conditions, and in the intimacy between staff and students as in pure academic achievement; and if Oxford, or indeed any other place, suffers from trying to be excellent in the large, the more the pity.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Westfield College (University of London),
Kilburn Avenue, NW3,
February 24.

Criminal statistics

From Dr Michael Levi
Sir, The Chief Constable of Kent and your readers should be aware of false statistical gods. Since the number of cases of thefts from the person is twice that of robbery in 1980 (report, February 16) it follows that the same numerical increase for thefts from the person would produce a percentage increase for the latter than for the former. Consequently, it seems likely that there has been no change whatever in this type of violence in Avon and Somerset.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the other areas where both robbery and theft from the person increased. This example does indicate that it is essential to use numerical as well as percentage changes in criminal statistics: a point that should be borne in mind by those who fail to observe that indecent assaults upon females have declined by more than the rise in the number of rapes.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL LEVI,
Lecturer in criminology,
University College, Cardiff,
PO Box 78,
Cardiff,
February 17.

Enduring Latin

From Mr Kenneth Wellesley
Sir, I do not hold it against the author of *Finis Coronat Opus* (February 13) that, while paying tribute to the *Oxford Latin Dictionary* now at the point of completion and prophesying that it will be the last of such lexicæ, he does not make a slight bow in the direction of an even grander enterprise.

If he travels to Munich and passes through the noble entrance hall of the Residenz, he will discover on an upper floor the elegant and practical headquarters of the *International Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, a work far more comprehensive than the modest and excellent *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, though written in the language of eternity. And the great work is only half completed. In hundreds of book boxes he will find many thousands of fiches awaiting the composition of articles covering the later letters of the alphabet.

No first-class Latin scholar could do himself or international scholarship a greater service than by spending two years in the Residenz as a lexicographer; and if youth or age opportunity schemes, academic redundancy payments, learned academics or enlightened benefactors (they still exist) were instrumental in supporting such a scholar in decent poverty, this would be a strange, far superior to Lord Chesterfield's. Yours sincerely,
KENNETH WELLESLEY,
125 Trinity Road,
Edinburgh,
February 20.

Sea of troubles

From Mr Crispian Cartwright
Sir, To commend her inflexibility the Prime Minister likens herself to Lysses (report, February 24). This may be jolly for her, but the comparison is ominous for the rest of us. For while it is indeed true, as Mrs Thatcher told the Engineering Employers' Federation, "came safely home to harbour," every schoolboy knows that his entire fleet and all his men were lost on the voyage.

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIAN CARTWRIGHT,
5 Pump Court,
Temple, EC4,
February 24.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 25: The Queen attended the opening of the Trial of the Pyx at Goldsmiths' Hall and was received upon arrival by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Leaver and the Prime Minister of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths (the Lord Astor of Hever).

After witnessing the opening of the Trial by the Queen's Remembrancer (Mr J. Ritchie), Her Majesty viewed a demonstration of weighing, measuring and assaying, and then conferred with the Trial and the Prime Minister of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths (the Lord Astor of Hever).

The Hon. Mary Morrison, Mr Robert Fellowes and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir Ian Collett, Bt.
and Miss P. J. Hawkins
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of the late David Seymour Collett and Mrs James Collett, and Miss P. J. Hawkins, daughter of Mr and Mrs James R. Hawkins, of Preston St Mary, Suffolk.

Mr P. Herbert
and Miss N. Furnival Jones
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Victor Herbert, of Court Cottage, Churchfields, Oxford, and Miss N. Furnival Jones, daughter of Sir Martin and Lady Furnival Jones, of The Little House, Oakley, Bedford.

Mr J. A. E. Buchan
and Miss A. F. Norris
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. A. E. Buchan, of Adel, Leeds, and Felicity, the youngest daughter of Mrs U. Norris, of Brechin, Angus.

Mr E. V. Cohen
and Miss R. J. Hyman
The engagement is announced between Elliot Victor, son of Mrs Renee Cohen and the late Mr Leslie Cohen, of Cheshire, and Rosalyn Joy Hyman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Louis Hyman, of Froxfield, Manchester.

Mr M. S. Dobbs
and Miss L. A. Kaplan
The engagement is announced between Michael Sean, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Dobbs, of Charlton Musgrove, Somerset, and Lisa Anne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Kaplan, of Jacksonville, Florida, United States.

Mr N. F. Gordon
and Miss R. J. M. Caro
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs W. E. J. Gordon, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Joanna, daughter of Professor and Mrs C. C. Caro of Putney.

Mr R. L. Hickson
and Miss C. M. H. Stibe
The engagement is announced between Robin Lister, son of Commander and Mrs L. T. Hickson, of Horsham, Somerset, and Catherine Margaret, daughter of Dr and Mrs Helen, of Cambridge.

Major R. J. Jackson
and Mrs P. A. Wright
The engagement is announced between Robert J. Jackson, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and Patricia A. Wright, of Ashill, Norfolk.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will visit the Greater Manchester Police Training School, Sedgley Park, Prestwich, and the East Lancashire Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen at Broughton House, Salford, on March 25.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will visit the Greater Manchester Police Training School, Sedgley Park, Prestwich, and the East Lancashire Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen at Broughton House, Salford, on March 25.

A memorial service for Colonel Sir Douglas Glover will be held at St Margaret's, Westminster, at noon today.

A memorial service for Miss M. A. Davidson will be held at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, today at 3.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Group Captain Andrew Willan will take place at 2.15 pm on Monday, March 22, in Salisbury Cathedral.

Marriages

Mr C. C. Hardwick III
and Miss K. C. Hanson
A service of blessing was held on Thursday at Chelsea Old Church, after the marriage of Mr C. C. Hardwick III and Miss K. C. Hanson, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. E. Leighton Thomson officiated.

Mr R. C. B. Letts
and Miss D. F. Wickremasinghe
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 20, at Christ Church, Winstanley, between Mr R. C. B. Letts, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. C. B. Letts, and Miss Deepthi Wickremasinghe, only daughter of the late Dr Frank Wickremasinghe and Mrs Wickremasinghe.

Church news

Resignations and retirements
The Rev R. N. Bath, Vicar of Chipping Norton, has resigned his office of Vicar of Chipping Norton, to take effect on March 1, 1982.

The Rev D. C. B. Bowler, Vicar of Lydney, has resigned his office of Vicar of Lydney, to take effect on March 1, 1982.

The Rev F. H. H. Eldridge, Rector of Walsgrave with Hamington and Wold, has resigned his office of Rector of Walsgrave with Hamington and Wold, to take effect on March 1, 1982.

The Rev G. P. Gibson, Vicar of Walsingham, has resigned his office of Vicar of Walsingham, to take effect on March 1, 1982.

The Rev R. F. Griffiths-Jones, Rector of West Wyalvingham, has resigned his office of Rector of West Wyalvingham, to take effect on March 1, 1982.

The Rev P. H. H. Eldridge, Rector of Walsgrave with Hamington and Wold, has resigned his office of Rector of Walsgrave with Hamington and Wold, to take effect on March 1, 1982.

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Royal Photographic Society

The following awards for 1981 have been awarded by the Council of the Royal Photographic Society:

Progress medal: Mr Norman Parkinson, for his photograph of the Queen and Prince Charles.

Gold medal: Mr John C. B. Brown, for his photograph of the Queen and Prince Charles.

Silver medal: Mr John C. B. Brown, for his photograph of the Queen and Prince Charles.

Plaque: Mr John C. B. Brown, for his photograph of the Queen and Prince Charles.

University news

Oxford
The Right Rev J. A. T. Robinson, Dean of Christ Church, has been appointed to the Bampton lectureship for 1984.

Cambridge
The Right Rev J. A. T. Robinson, Dean of Christ Church, has been appointed to the Bampton lectureship for 1984.

Nottingham
The following honorary appointments have been made:

Mr R. F. Griffiths-Jones, Rector of West Wyalvingham, has been appointed to the Bampton lectureship for 1984.

Mr R. F. Griffiths-Jones, Rector of West Wyalvingham, has been appointed to the Bampton lectureship for 1984.

Luncheon

Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Professor Hans-Joachim Lauth, Minister for Higher and Technical Education, German Democratic Republic.

Reception

University of Chicago Alumni Association
Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, FRS, was the guest of honour at a reception given by the University of Chicago Alumni Association at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, yesterday evening.

Dinners

Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society
Mr Christopher Tugendhat, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society at the Manchester University last night.

Apothecaries' Society

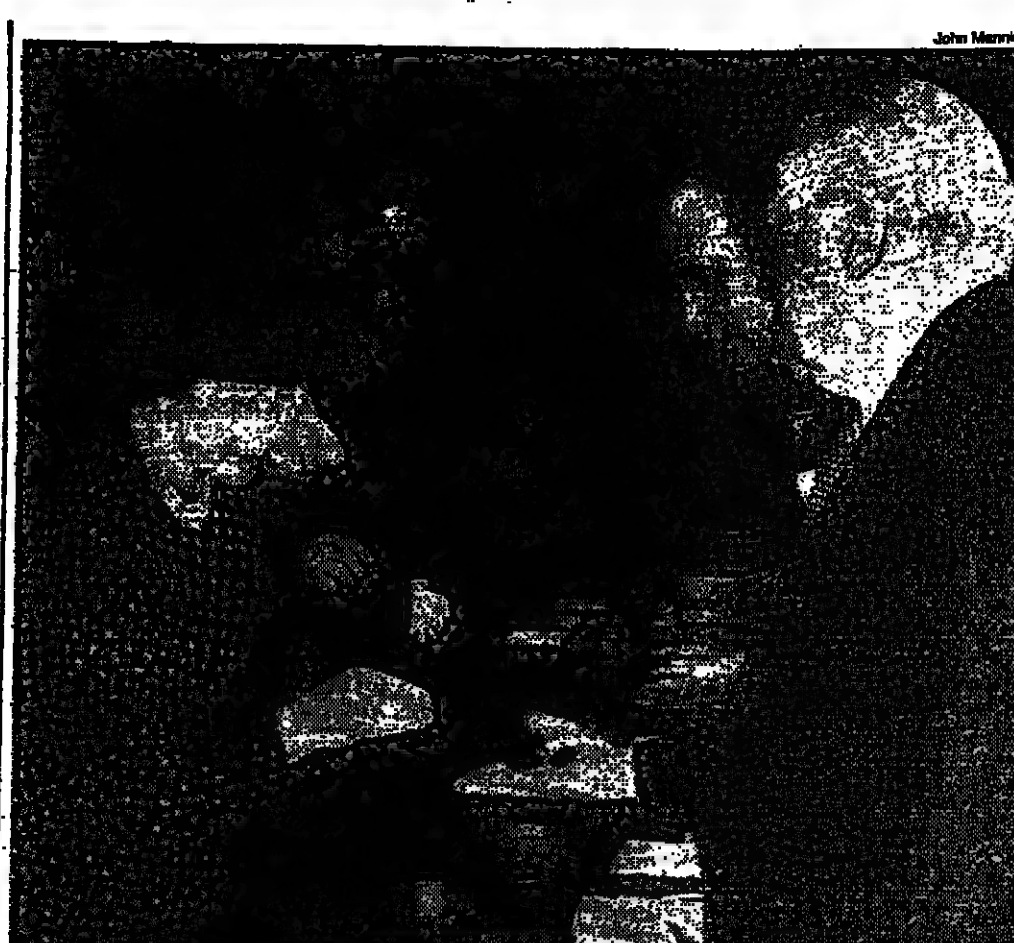
The Deputy Master of the Society of Apothecaries of London, Mr Guy Blackburn, assisted by the Senior Warden, Dr T. D. Whitte, and the Junior Warden, Sir Peter Tizard, entertained members of the Society and their guests at a dinner at the Apothecaries' Hall, London, yesterday evening.

Service dinners

Lieutenants' Greenwell Course
Admiral Sir Henry Leach, First Sea Lord, and Sir James Dore, Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, were the guests of honour at a mess dinner given by the Greenwell Course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, yesterday evening.

Memorial service

Mr R. H. Mainogot
A memorial service for Mr Rodney Honor Mainogot was held at St Bartholomew's Church, London, yesterday evening. Mr Mainogot was a member of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and was killed in action during the Second World War.



The Queen inspecting New Zealand coins during the Trial of the Pyx yesterday.

Master coins a controversial phrase

By Tony Samstag
Like the best man at a wedding feast, the Queen's Remembrancer is bound by tradition to never say a word that might be taken as a slight to the Royal Mint. But at the Trial of the Pyx, the ancient ceremony at which a jury drawn from members of the Goldsmiths' Company tests the size, weight and purity of British coins manufactured by the Royal Mint during the previous year, the Master of the Mint, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has been forced to use the phrase "master coins" to describe the coins used for the trial.

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that at this point a ripple of consternation passed through the select band of the truly knowledgeable in such matters, among them Miss Susan Hale, Librarian to the Goldsmiths' Company, if anyone is capable of snuffing to attention while seated it is Miss Hale, whose bearing is rarely less than military in a most kindly sort of way. And snap she did.

The visit of Charles II, you see, has never been proven. Officially, the last known visit of a reigning monarch was 38 years earlier, when James I attended in 1611.

Not that the Queen's Remembrancer, resplendent in his regalia, black cap, silver wig and all, was aware of the muted controversy he had provoked, or possibly would have cared. This was, after all, a kind of jamboree, celebrating the 700th Trial of the Pyx since Edward I signed the first known writ in 1282. What are a mere 50 years out of 700?

The Senior Master of the Supreme Court, which is the office Master Ritchie performs when he is not wearing his Queen's Remembrancer's cap, carried on charming his audience, which included, he noted, "the Master of the Mint... in full fig". Sir Geoffrey Howe better known as Chancellor of the Exchequer, beamed.

Master Ritchie continued his charge to the jury, which had before it 2,758 gold and silver and 32,096 cupro-nickel coins of the United Kingdom, 13 silver and 60 cupro-nickel coins of New Zealand, "and of course the 34 silver coins of the Queen's own Maundy Money", to a total value of £152,000.

All of them carried a portrait of Her Majesty, and his personal favourite was the most modern, coined in 1967 by Mr Arnold Machin for the new decimal coinage.

"One of the matters I have never been able to discover is when and at whose suggestion a new representative of the sovereign should appear. In a dream I once experienced the thought that perhaps it was my duty as a Remembrancer at some stage to remind the Queen to have a new portrait made for the coinage, but nowhere could I discover the protocol to be followed."

"Needless to say, I awoke in a very anxious state, having imagined a mystic chain on a slow lurch to the Tower, because of my deficient knowledge."

"I have no fear," Master Ritchie, on either count.

Chinese art developing into a healthy market

A sale of contemporary Chinese paintings at Christie's in New York on Wednesday totalled \$154,330 (£83,421), with 22 per cent bought in the last 15 minutes. The pictures, dating from 1950 onwards, were in traditional style, some on paper and others on silk, and included landscapes, portraits and flower studies.

Prices were often surprising, with acknowledged masters such as Qi Baishi and Zhang Daqian reaching \$10,000 and \$8,000 for a painting. A landscape by the Chinese painter Li Kaifu, dated 1950, sold for \$1,000.

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England holds chess lead

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent
There was little change in the positions after round four in the Western European Zonal Chess Tournament at Marbella, in Spain.

Mestel, still enjoying a lead with the excellent score of 3 out of 4 after drawing with the black pieces against the Dutch master, second place with 2½ points, a rather dull draw with the Carokann defence against Mark Hebden.

Ligterink and Stean follow with 2 points each. Stean drew with Rivas (Spain), but that was a game with the result depending on a remarkable end-game play, some remarkable Short lost to Van der Wiel in a game that hinged on some end-game tempi and since Van der Wiel still has an adjourned game to finish against Rivas it is probable that the Dutch master will join Nunn in second place with 2½ points. Rivas has 1½ points, with two adjourned games. One of those is against Hebden and the other is against the English player.

The last two places are occupied by Short with 1 point and Hebden with ½ and one adjourned game.

At just past the halfway stage in this final event, two English players, Mestel and Nunn, look to have excellent chances of qualifying for the Interzonal and third, Stean, still without chances of gaining the remaining qualifying place.

Moreover... Miles Kington

Long Good Friday. The First Law of Chronology states that "weekends expand to fill available work-time" and Friday looks like being the next victim. Already Friday lunch-time starts at about 12 and ends about 3. People are starting to think that it is hardly worth going back to the office at 3. Traffic jams to the country are starting at about 2 on Friday afternoons. Hence the long good Friday. (Also Nancy Friday: the day in the US on which gays are allowed to do anything and I mean anything. Well, for gosh sakes.)

Saturday Night Fever. Anthropologists have noticed that almost every tribe on earth suffers from the belief that something exciting will happen on Saturday night if only one dresses up colourfully and stays up late. (Television companies enjoy the same delusion.) Science can find no factual evidence for this belief, but then, when did you last find a scientist out having a good time on Saturday night? Well, then. Personally I don't think you can beat roaming the streets at 1 am on a Sunday morning, looking for a non-existent taxi home in the rain, trying to remember the names of the people with you and being rather aware that five years ago you would probably have enjoyed all this. Well, then.

Sheffield Wednesday. A good old British custom celebrated once every 40 years. On Sheffield Wednesday all the inhabitants of Sheffield come out dressed in feathers and motley garb, in an attempt to come and manage one of their football teams. There is no known cure. (Also, Ash Wednesday, the day on which it is traditional to give up smoking for Lent.)

Maundy Thursday. A strange relic of medieval times, when calendars were so unsure that no one quite knew if it was Monday or Tuesday, and loyal subjects were given the choice of Wembley Friday, Sundry Tuesday, Thrifty Saturday and Pineapple Sunday.

OBITUARY

MR NIKOLAY ANDREYEV

Studies in Russian history and literature

Mr Nikolay Efremovich Andreyev, one of the most versatile Slavists in England, who died on February 25, was born in St Petersburg on March 13 1908 and brought up in Tallinn (Estonia) where both his parents were school-teachers.

His early promise was evident at the Charles IV University in Prague, perhaps the most outstanding centre for all branches of Slav scholarship between the wars. Holding one of the coveted President Masaryk scholarships, he studied under such eminent teachers as Murko, Weingart, Kizevich and Niederle, and made medieval Russia his speciality.

His close connection with the Kondakov Institute, the foremost centre for research in medieval Slav culture, began as early as 1931; he was its librarian from 1934 and as acting Director during the war years managed to keep the institute going under great difficulties. On obtaining his doctorate in 1933 he became a Lecturer on Russian history and literature at the Russian Free University in Prague.

Though Andreyev took no part in politics, there was enough, when the Russians occupied Prague at the end of the war, for him to be deported as a doubtful character to a camp in East Germany, from which he was released only some three years later. Return to his native Russia was out of the question. Fortunately his name came to the notice of Elizabeth H. then Professor of Slavonic Studies at Cambridge, as a displaced person in Berlin and she was able to secure him as Russian lecturer in her department.

He became a naturalized British subject in 1955, was made a member of Magdalene College in the same year, a full lecturer in the Department of Slavonic Studies a year later, and Reader in Russian Studies in 1973. His contribution to Russian studies in the university was immense. His lectures and seminars were always given in Russian (he was slow to master the English language) the great advantage of the students. The catholicity of his interests, ranging from medieval Slav culture to Soviet literature, and his encyclopedic memory made him a particularly valuable resource. He had published much of his post-graduate research. He had published much in his Prague years on many aspects of Russian civilization; it was a particular satisfaction to him in later years to take his place against a Slavist of international repute and to have his work accepted for publication in various Soviet learned journals.

He was elected a Fellow of Clare Hall in 1968.

In 1958 he married Gill Huddles, daughter of the late Sir Bert Huddlesstone. She had been one of his outstanding pupils at Girton College, and they had two sons and a daughter.

MR GEORGE SAVAGE

Mr George Savage, who died in Chester on February 18 aged 72, was one of the country's most distinguished writers on ceramics and the decorative arts. He was also one of the most prolific.

His international reputation was established by his books on English, French and German pottery and porcelain, but his work included scholarly studies of glazes, enamels, metalwork and decorative arts, and valuable contributions to the history and identification of fakes and forgeries and the craft of restoration.

Porcelain through the Ages, co-authored in print for 20 years, was probably the most widely acclaimed of his books, but many were published in America and in French, German, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Yugoslavian and Czechoslovakian translations.

In the last 10 years of his life George Savage made something of a specialty of the writing of dictionaries. His first, The Dictionary of Antiques, was published in 1970 and became a best-seller, and he built on this success with the Dictionary of Ceramic Terms (with Harold Newman), Dictionary of 19th Century Antiques and

MRS SARA THOMAS

Mrs Sara (Sally) Thomas, widow of the theatre director Stephen Thomas, who died in hospital on February 22, aged 71, was an extremely talented actress, musician, lyrical poet, and writer.

Looking like a pre-Raphaelite portrait, with her auburn hair, she acted under her maiden name of Sara Jackson. Trained first as a musician, and then at the Embassy School of Acting where she won a scholarship and was taught by Barbara Couper, she appeared at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in 1941 (Margaret Lockwood was her understudy) and played Ophelia to the Hamlet of George Hayes, and Perdita at Stratford-upon-Avon in 1942.

She was Perdita again, "from the night cottage" said a critic in the Observer, in her husband's production which during the war. It came at length to the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park.

MR B. T. SMITH

"BT" succeeded him on death in 1929.

With the depression, "BT" diversified the firm in insulated design and construction, and the building and development of a convenience-foods society. He was usually regarded as the inventor of the modern cold-store, and his firm, Partners Ltd, designed and constructed more than 75 per cent of the entire cold-storage volume existing in Britain.

The firm was founded by his grandfather Theophilus Smith in Burton on Trent in 1874, on the same site as it now occupies. At first it was a steam-absorption plant for the breweries, and was subsequently bought by Theophilus's son whose own son

RIGHT REV W. A. E. WESTALL

The Rt Rev Wilfrid Arthur Edmund Westall, Bishop Suffragan of Crediton, died on February 22 at the age of 81. He was a former Archdeacon of Exeter and Canon Residentiary of Exeter Cathedral.

The son of the Rev. A. St. Leger Westall, he was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and St Chad's College, Durham. In 1928 he was ordained. He was an honorary DD of Exeter. A lively and outgoing man, unafraid of controversy or innovation he was a popular

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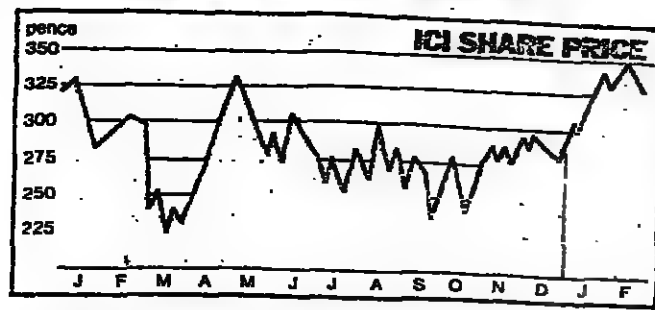
ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Feb 15. Dealings End Today. § Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 8.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

[illegible]

BUSINESS NEWS

Outlook less sure



ICI shares slumped to 226p, their lowest level for several years, after shocking the stock market a year ago by announcing more than halved profits and its first dividend cut since the war. But on hopes of good 1981 figures and brighter prospects the shares started to move ahead sharply at the beginning of the year only to turn weaker this week on worries — borne out yesterday — that the immediate outlook is not promising.

RTZ agrees to buy Tunnel

Rio Tinto-Zinc, which recently took over Thos W. Ward, has now reached agreement to buy Tunnel Holdings. RTZ already owns 50.9 per cent of Tunnel's voting rights and is offering four RTZ shares for every three Tunnel "A" or "B" shares. At last night's price this values Tunnel's shares at 578p and the group at £168m. There is a cash alternative of 550p a share from RTZ's own resources.

Shipping orders decline

New orders secured by the world's shipbuilding nations last year were 2 million tonnes lower than a year earlier although the industry's output in 1981 showed an appreciable gain on 1980 levels. Figures issued today by Lloyd's Register of Shipping showed that world shipbuilders have orders in hand totalling 35.3m tonnes gross. Among the nations which managed to increase their order books last year, Britain was one of eight nations with an order backlog of more than 1 million tonnes gross.

Post Office target review

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, has ordered a review of the financial target of the Post Office. The present target, which requires the postal business to achieve a return of 2 per cent on turnover after interest, expires at the end of the coming financial year. Mr Jenkin said in the Commons he had agreed with the Post Office that it should reduce its unit costs by 5 per cent by 1984-85.

● The EEC Commission has dropped an anti-dumping case over United States polyester and cotton sheets and pillowcases because its inquiry found there was no case to answer despite British and Irish complaints.

● Receivers have been called at Pearson and Co (Chesterfield), domestic pottery manufacturers, and Irvine Sellers Group (Holdings), the clothing company. Efforts are being made to sell both companies as going concerns.

● Businessmen will no longer be able to hide behind company names from today. New rules introduced by the 1981 Companies Act force all businesses to display the owners' names at the place of business. The names must be accompanied by an address and will also have to be shown on invoices and business letters.

● Romanian officials held exploratory talks with eight Western banks in Frankfurt yesterday on rescheduling an estimated \$1,200m of debts due in 1981. More talks are likely soon.

MARKET SUMMARY

Amersham dominates

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 551.8 down 0.8
FT 100 66.86 up 0.47
FT all-share 319.91 down 0.64
Bargains 24,339

Amersham International's debut dominated the early part of the day on the stock market, with the shares opening at 190p — a 48p premium. They slipped back to 185p but ended the day at 189p in heavy trading.

After opening on a bright spot up 6 points, disappointment over the ICI results outweighed optimism about interest rates and the FT index ended 0.8 down at 551.8.

ICI slipped from 332p to 326p immediately ahead of the figures and the chairman's comment that there was no firm evidence of an improvement in demand this year, but closed unchanged at 326p.

Plessey shed 10p to 353p on its third quarter results, despite these being at the top end of the market's estimates, while Thorn BSI were another dull feature among leaders losing 13p to 453p.

Gifts opened better on the easing of United States interest rates and the prospect of a fresh decline in domestic rates but after early gains of 2½-3½ ended at the previous day's close in both long and short trades.

In its long-running take-over battle with Anglo, has again

extended its offer for Croda International by a further week. But with 17.91 per cent of Croda's voting shares Burmah has received scarcely any more acceptances in the past week and must decide no later than Monday whether to raise its offer under takeover code rules. Croda shares were unchanged at 83p with Burmah 1p better at 109p.

News that Charterhouse Petroleum had made an agreed bid worth 195p per share for CCP North Sea provided a boost to the recently dull oil sector. CCP had been suspended at 145p and returned at 165p while Charterhouse shares were 1p off at 71p.

Elsewhere in the sector Ultramar shed 11p to 390p on rumours of a rights issue but Lushon put on 10p to 264p ahead of next week's results.

BSR were a weak feature in electricals, shedding 6p to 76p, after one broker revised his profit forecast for the year to December down from £7m to £5m.

Camping retailers Greenalms Leisure are expected to report losses of around £200,000 next week and the shares slumped to a low of 20p. Meanwhile the group's former associates, BIL, fell 10p to 83p, less than half their 1981/2 peak of 172p.

Food retailers were helped by an optimistic trading review from Tesco chairman Mr Leslie Porter, and the shares put on 1p to 55p. Equity turnover on February 24 was £150.643m (18,865 bargains).

Gareth David

COMMODITIES

● All eyes were on tin, which during the second day of the possible squeeze collapsed, offering the first contango since November. Copper tin hit a seven-month low of £7,320 a tonne, and three-month tin ended the day 865 above the cash price.

● Rubber rallied after the International Natural Rubber Organisation bought for its buffer stock. The April price rose from 45.75p to 46.65 a kilogramme, and the May contract strengthened from 46.75p to 47.6p.

● The International Wheat Council has reduced its estimate of world coarse grain production in the current crop year by 2 million tonnes to 103m. But it has not changed its estimate of world wheat output and trade from 475 million tonnes and 100 million tonnes. The comparable figures last year were 445 million tonnes and 93 million tonnes.

TODAY

Car and commercial vehicle production in January (final figures). Sales and orders in the engineering industries (November). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (fourth-quarter provisional).

Board Meetings: Half-yearly — Burnside Investments, Celtic Haven, Humberstone Electronics, Final — AI Industrial Products, Aigmenne Bank Nederland, T F and J H Braime, Leopold Joseph Sterling Fund, Olives Paper Mill, Yorkshire Fine Woollen Spinners.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,580.45 down 83.57.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,265.0 down 2.12.
New York: Dow Jones Industrial average closed at 825.82, down 0.95.

CURRENCIES

● The pound moved narrowly against the dollar. Both strengthened against other currencies in quite trading ahead of today's United States money supply figures.

Sterling \$1.8335, up 35 points
Index 91.2, up 0.4
DM 4.3450
Fr.F 11.0700
Yen 433.00
New York: \$1.8287

Dollar Index 112.9, up 0.4
DM 2.3685, up 50 points
Gold \$366.50, up \$3.25
New York: \$365.70

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates were slightly easier where changed. The Bank of England bought £292m of bills in response to a forecast shortage of £200m. Its band 1 rate was cut to 13 per cent.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 13%
3-month inter bank 14½-15½%
Euro-currency rates:
3-month dollar 14½-15½%
3-month DM 15½-16%
3-month Fr.F 15½-16%

Oil operators push for North Sea gas export

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Leading oil companies operating in the North Sea have told Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, that they fear his plans to privatise the North Sea gas business do not go far enough to create a genuinely free gas market. Unless the Government agrees to allow exports of gas, the companies fear that its plans to break British Gas's monopoly purchase powers over gas — currently being considered by Parliament — will have little impact.

The issue was raised at a meeting earlier this week between the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association, which represents all the big oil companies that are active in the North Sea, and Mr Lawson at the Department of Energy. It follows a meeting of the association's council last week at which several companies expressed their disquiet about the inadequacy of the gas liberalisation proposals in the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill, which is now in committee stage in the House of Commons.

The council originally wanted to send a letter to Mr Lawson outlining their fears, but agreed at the suggestion of officials at the Department of Energy to have urgent meetings with the Secretary of State and officials instead.

The operators' misgivings are likely to be embarrassing for the Government, since the oil companies are supposed to be the main beneficiaries if the Government's plans to end British Gas's statutory right to buy all gas produced in the North Sea. Mr Lawson hopes that ending the state corporation's monopoly will lead to a sharp increase in exploration for gas, and allow oil companies to sell gas direct to industrial consumers on the mainland.

Sir Hugh leaves the Harrods group Fraser cashes in his chips

By Philip Robinson

Almost a year ago to the day, Sir Hugh Fraser gave up gambling for the second time. He has lost more than £1m in the past and admits the habit has played an important part in his fall from public life.

Yesterday he severed all management links with the Harrods stores group, which was built up by his father and is now run by a man unconnected with the family and who was introduced by a merchant bank.

Ironically, it was the disclosure of his return to the gaming tables and his admitted dishevelled cheques that shocked boardroom colleagues as chairman of the House of Fraser more than 12 months ago.

They did so just after he had made friends again with Lomroff chief Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, whose group holds just under 30 per cent of Fraser and who had been making life difficult for the stores group directors. Up to that point, Sir Hugh had been supporting the board in its fight against what it called "harrasement" by Mr Rowland.

Sir Hugh, aged 45, went into the Scottish-based family business when he was 17. At 21 he came a director and eight years later one of the youngest chairmen of a public company.

He is acknowledged as a brilliant draper, but one who needed to be balanced by firm financial controls.

But it was his private life that eventually took over and pushed aside his business reputation.

Twice married Sir Hugh, once dubbed as the last really big gambler in Britain, lost an estimated £1.5m in 1976.



Sir Hugh Fraser: fresh start

Six years ago he told a Stock Exchange inquiry that he had sold 1.5 million shares in Scottish and Newcastle in 1975 to meet gambling losses.

Sir Hugh, who once pledged to give up drinking, smoking and gambling, said last night: "I have not gambled for more than a year. But the pressure is on at the moment. I'm still drinking, although not nearly as much."

He says he now intends to start again in the drapery business. He is spending £250,000 on a tailor's shop in Glasgow, Paisley, and plans to extend into the drapery business. In August, he plans to marry for a third time, schoolteacher Annabel Finlay, aged 25.

Call for new industrial policy

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director general of the National Economic Development Office, yesterday urged the Government and both sides of industry to bury their differences and formulate a new long-term industrial policy before politicians became embroiled in the run up to the next General Election.

There was now only a brief opportunity for some agreed approach on the requirements for industrial success, he said, and all concerned must seek to distance industry from the party political process.

"We cannot afford to see our industrial problems continue to be exacerbated as they have been since the war

by dogma and ignorance. Every government should have the health and competitiveness of productive industry — public and private, manufacturing and services — as the explicit criterion against which both macro and micro economic policy are measured."

Mr Chandler, speaking less than two weeks before the Chancellor's Budget statement, said that neither of the two opposing economic arguments of deflation and reflection were appropriate to the very complex set of causes that underlay Britain's problems. Neither touched the fundamentals of the country's long-term lack of competitiveness — inadequate

education, training, investment, management performance and work practices.

"Industry itself is traditionally and damagingly inarticulate in intellectual debate in its own cause. The battlefield is predominantly held by warring economists hurling sophisticated missiles, little understood by the man in the street, punctuated by the occasional recantation."

Mr Chandler, addressing the Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education, said the greatest untapped potential in the country lay in the involvement, participation and creation of a sense of identity of interest by individuals in the company for which they worked.

LME authorities step in as tin prices tumble

By Michael Prest

Tin prices unexpectedly tumbled on the second day of the feared market squeeze. Cash tin fell by £775 to £7,320 a tonne, while three months metal was £310 lower at £7,385, giving the first contango since November.

Dealers were largely at a loss to explain why the fall had occurred so rapidly, but the London Metal Exchange authorities, whose activity behind the scenes has apparently done much to avert the price collapse, have acknowledged that the LME's intervention was important in calming the market but they also point out that the purposes and identity of the operator who has dominated the market remain a mystery.

Members will be asked to give details of their tin positions on March 5, to be returned to the chairman by March 8. If nothing untoward is revealed, Mr Brown said, the £120 a tonne maximum premium may be abolished on March 11.

In fact, little or no premium was paid yesterday by traders, who were able to cover their positions as the price collapsed. Traders acknowledge that the LME's intervention was important in calming the market but they also point out that the purposes and identity of the operator who has dominated the market remain a mystery.

ICI profit up £51m but gloom remains

By Ronald Pollen

Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest manufacturing group and a leading indicator of industry's health, warned yesterday that it could see little evidence of better times soon.

The caution of the ICI board contrasts with the more optimistic noises it was making last October, but Sir Maurice Hodgson, ICI's outgoing chairman, said: "There is considerable uncertainty over economic prospects for the remainder of 1982 in all major markets and there is no firm evidence yet of sustained improvements in demand."

However, the group's full year figures for 1981 more than satisfied the stock market. With a strong fourth quarter, ICI ended the year with pre-tax profits of £335m against the previous year's depressed £24m. Some indication of the group's confidence that the trading picture will improve this year comes with a bigger than expected increase in the dividend from 17p net to 15p. Last year, ICI took the unprecedented step of cutting its dividend from 23p

after one of its worst ever years, culminating in a second half loss.

Despite the improvements, ICI is still losing heavily in several of its most important divisions. After last year's restructuring, the fibres loss has been cut from £86m to £36m and the group is tentatively hoping to break even this year if currencies do not move too adversely.

The other loss-makers are organic chemicals, petrochemicals and plastics which together lost £84m against £113m, although there is less optimism that these will move out of the red.

Overall chemical sales increased 12 per cent to £5,750m last year although the volume gain was only 2 per cent and there was a 3 per cent fall in the United Kingdom market.

ICI appears to be taking a cautious line towards currency trading because of unpromising sales in January and February and the continued uncertainty over exchange rates which are of crucial importance in ICI's main markets.

Business Editor, page 17.



Amersham International employee inspects a pure solution for particles of dust through a polarizing screen.

Amersham's diagnosis for success

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Amersham International, the stock that every investor wants to put his money into, is the only public company in the world whose main business is based on radioactive isotopes.

It makes isotopes for virtually every non-military application, from diagnosing disease to triggering nuclear reactors.

An isotope is an artificial chemical element produced by bombarding non-radioactive material with particles

at very high energy. It gives off radiation, which can be used either to trace a compound through the human body or to cause reactions — for example destroying cancer cells.

The main application for Amersham's isotopes is in medicine. Half are used directly for health care and another quarter are for medical research.

Diagnosis is the most important field. Amersham manufactures radiopharma-

ceuticals that are given to the patient by mouth or injection. Their distribution in the body can then be monitored by a gamma camera which picks up the radiation they give off.

However, the fastest growing diagnostic market is for clinical testing kits, which involve no direct application of radioactivity to the patient.

Amersham uses two nuclear reactors at Harwell, Dido and Pluto, to make most of its isotopes. The non-

radioactive target material is bombarded with neutrons in the reactor, and some atoms are converted to the new radioactive isotope. A lot of very intricate separation and chemical synthesis is then required before the pure product can be shipped.

"If we cannot make the isotope efficiently in a reactor, we use a cyclotron and fire charged particles at a target," Dr Stuart Burgess said. The company is bringing into operation a new, powerful cyclotron.

Europe agrees its MFA strategy

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 25

European trade ministers reached agreement today on an intricate textile import package, which will regulate the flow of cloth, yarn and clothing from cheap manufacturers into the EEC.

Settlement means that the European Commission will be authorised to go ahead and negotiate the 28 bilateral agreements with the main producers. Had it proved impossible the EEC intended to pull out of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which controls 80 per cent of the world's textile trade.

Today's council was able to agree the wording of a new EEC regulation to control the way manufacturers in member states export their part-finished products for completion in factories where labour costs are lower.

This practice, known as "outward processing" is widely used in West Germany.

The regulation has been argued out for three years but the urgency of approving it seems today to have eventually filtered through to the ministers.

It defines "outward processing" and sets out how the trade can be managed. Having worked out the regulation the ministers were then able to begin work on finding ways to define what the global ceiling of imports should be. France and Italy were particularly keen to see these ceilings set as low as possible.

Part of the agreed formula was that there should be a 10 per cent cut in imports from three of the four dominant producers — Taiwan, South Korea and Macau.

Britain succeeded in pleading that the fourth dominant producer, Hongkong, was a special case since it maintained an open market. In consequence the commission has been authorised to negotiate with Hongkong on the basis that its quota would not need to be cut at all.

Overall the ministers were prepared to agree no more than a 1 per cent total increase in imports per year from the MFA countries on the 1982 figure.

A major difficulty in past months in reaching an agreement has been in making provisions in the final wording which would allow West Germany to go through the agreed ceilings on its "outward processing" products.

Agreement means it is now possible to approve ratification of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement worked out last December.

Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect from close of business

on 26th February 1982

its Base Rate for lending

is reduced from

14% to 13½%

per annum

Bank of Ireland

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on February 26th, 1982, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be reduced from 14 per cent to 13½ per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's Demand Deposit Accounts will be at the rate of 11 per cent per annum.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ.
Telephone: 01-628 8011.



Co-op Bank Group announces a change in base rate

From 14.00% to 13.50% p.a.
On and after Friday, 26th February 1982

Deposit Rates will become:
7 day deposits 11.00% p.a.
1 month deposits 11.25% p.a.
Short-term deposits from 12.00% to 13.60% p.a.
depending on amount & term (minimum £500 & 6 months)

First Co-operative Finance Limited
Cheque & Save current notional interest rate is 10%

Standard Chartered announces that on and after 25th February 1982 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 14% to 13½% p.a.

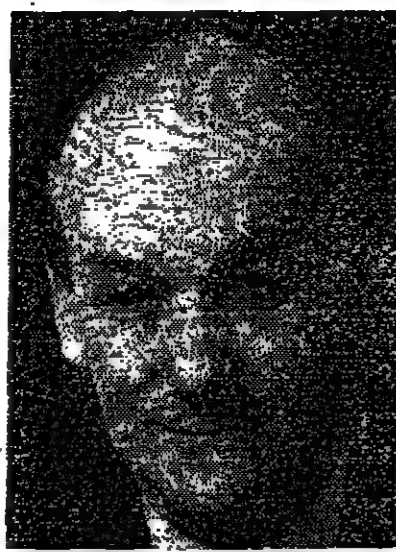
The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 12% to 11% p.a.
The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days notice of withdrawal will be decreased from 13% to 12% p.a.

Standard Chartered Bank PLC

Cider-makers' cheer...shareholders' perks

Lower duty brings in the drinkers

The brewers have got their backs against the bar-room wall. Figures released yesterday from the Brewers' Society forecast a 2 to 3 per cent decline in beer sales for 1982. (Drew Johnston writes.)
Consumption has been falling since 1979 when Britain's drinkers downed 32m pints a day. In 1981 this fell to 30.5m and the forecast for 1982 is 29.5m.
Mr Derek Palmer, chairman of the society and chairman of Bass, blamed tax duty and value-added tax for the fall, which he said had increased by 96 per cent in 2½ years.
The drop in sales is forcing brewers to move into other consumer-related products, such as food and leisure.
Analysts rule out a round of takeovers and mergers within the industry. The fall in beer consumption is giving a boost to cider. Years of advertising the product may finally be paying off for the cider makers.
But lower duty on cider - 4p a pint against 12½p on a pint of beer - has given recession-hit drinkers an excuse to switch from beer. So H. P. Bulmer and Merrydown are being chased by investors.



Keith Wickenden: diversification

How to travel on the cheap

Demand for airline seats may have slumped, but the ferry companies still face stiff competition from the airlines in the holiday travel market. (Drew Johnston writes.)
This is one reason why several ferry companies offer generous travel concessions to shareholders. Companies which give this useful perk are P and O, European Ferries, DFDS Danish Seaways, Isle of Man Steam Packet, and the quoted company with the longest name in the London market, Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Steam Packet Company.
As the table shows, European Ferries gives discounts up to 50 per cent.

	P&O	IoM	So'lon	Euro Ferr	DFDS
Discount (per cent)	30-50	50	50-100	25-50	25
Min. holding	200 def or 500 pref	250 ord	2,400 ord	300	1 (4 classes of share)
Discount applies	on reg.	on reg. at Feb 27	on reg.	on reg. at April 15	(Concessions & up for review April 15)

cent on its services to France. But to qualify this summer your name has to be on that short register on February 1.
P and O also sails to France, and offers travel discounts as soon as the shareholder appears on the company register. According to many analysts, there are also good investment reasons for buying the company's shares.
"The prospective dividend yield is around 9.2 per cent, which is attractive," a leading shipping sector analyst said yesterday.
Profits recovered in the second half of 1981 and there is excitement in the shipping world over the enormous estimated savings in operating costs which its recently announced Finnish-built liner will achieve.
P and O's share price is also strong on constant rumours of a takeover bid from the Far East.
European Ferries, yesterday announced its plan to buy out the share of its partner, Marmaco, in their 22 million square foot property development in Denver, Colorado. Profits from the project will contribute substantially to the 1982 figures.
The 1981 figures, due in May, are expected to be poor, but the market thinks the shares are a good investment buy. Estimates of the 1981 profit performance average around £18m pretax, against £30.4m in 1980. Gross dividend yield is expected to be 5.4 per cent, with the earnings ratio about 17.
But under Keith Wickenden, its entrepreneurial chairman, the market is looking for the company to reap the benefits of diversification in 1982. Pretax profit forecasts for 1982 are pitched at anything between £22m and more than £30m.
DFDS Danish Seaways is to consider its position on cheap fares.

for shareholders at a board meeting in April. Scandinavian specialists at stockbrokers Vickers & Costa rate the shares a buy, despite the possible withdrawal of its cheap fares-for-shareholders policy.
Shares in the two regional ferry companies, Southampton and Isle of Man, are not particularly active.

Reaping the Red harvest

Russia-watchers in commodity markets believe the Russians have enough revenue to buy present grain needs. Perhaps gold, platinum and gas oil can stop reeling after the succession of Soviet sales this winter to raise cash. (Sally White writes.)
Russia bought a record amount of around 41 million tons. They need only about another 2 tons. They will probably pick it up from a variety of origins, including Australia. We think the grain markets will be flat. Mr Mike Hinebaugh of Conti-Committee, offshoot of United States Continental Grain, said.
Next deadline commodity markets await, for guesses for this year's harvest in May. Three years in succession were bad, a fourth is unlikely. Given social unrest in Moscow, Moscow is under pressure to supply food to member countries. Another bad harvest will drive Soviet Union to the markets again.

Bearish sentiment

Sentiment in the metals markets is bearish. Yesterday's *Annual Economic Review of the Metals Markets* from Hargreaves & Williams, metals analysts and investment advisors, will not relieve the gloom (Michael Prest writes).
The report says no metal looks a safe bet, some like tin are positively dangerous, and only political crises could jerk the markets out of depression this year.

BIDS AND DEALS

BICC has agreed in principle to purchase for £1.8m cash a 25 per cent interest in Lantier Aluminium, a Belgian aluminium rod producer. The effect of the investment will be to secure for BICC, on beneficial terms, supplies of aluminium alloy rod for the manufacture of overhead line conductors and power cables.
Readcut International has sold the business of Shaw Polythene, Shaw Roadblock and Snapples for about £600,000 in cash payable in respect of stocks and trademarks.
Kew House Retail, the fresh food retailing business based in Merseyside, has made an acquisition which makes it the largest independent fresh food business in the country.
The group, which has no plans to go public, sees this as its first step toward establishing itself as a national fresh food company. Present exposure is weak in the south east and Midlands, but growth is expected in these areas.

LATEST RESULTS

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Amber Day (I)	30,215.02	0.11(0.16)	0.07(0.12)	—(0.9)	—	—(0.9)
Cardinal Int. (F)	1,211.15	1.21(1.15)	5.12(4.9)	1/4	4.95(4.5)	—
Footwear Industry (I)	4,655.70	0.30(0.25)	0.30(0.25)	—	—	—
ICI (F)	6,581(5.715)	335(284)	32.3(22.1)	3/5	19(17)	—
ICI Health (F)	0.00(0.0680)	—	—	—	—	—
Pharm (Swiss)	776.00(60)	78.00(60)	1.28(1.75)	3/5	1/7	—(7.63)
U.I. Textiles (I)	5,522.11	5.52(2.1)	1.28(1.05)	—	—	—
Ramer Textiles (I)	6.95(6.53)	0.10(1.4)	—	—	—	—(0.51)
Rickards (GB) (F)	0.82(0.0959)	—	36(—)	1/5	21(5)	—
Rohm (F)	688(20.8)	0.21(3.1)	5.34(7.5)	—	—	—(7.25)
Westwood (F)	1,242.45	0.15(0.4)	6.57(1.13)	—	—	—
Ward (F)	12,911(2.81)	1.22(1.5)	12.41(6.5)	3/4	4.4(4.2)	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Earnings in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.025. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. All figures after tax unless stated otherwise.



JAPAN

Japan has hit back at the United States for renewing pressure on Tokyo for additional trade concessions. Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, chief cabinet secretary and official spokesman, said the Japanese Government doubted whether the United States knew the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "That is why they have introduced reciprocity legislation that could send us back to the 1930s," he said.
Meanwhile, Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, has called a meeting of his cabinet council next week to discuss the issue. A Japanese trade mission to the United States arrives back home on Saturday.

UNITED STATES

United States car sales in mid-February were rather better because of rebates, but were still down on the same period a year ago.
The five big American car makers sold 167,295 cars between February 11 and 20, down 1.4 per cent from 163,614 in mid-February of 1981. Nevertheless, it was the fifteenth consecutive 10-day period in which sales failed to match year earlier levels.

MALAYSIA

The International Natural Rubber Organisation will hold a special meeting in Kuala Lumpur on March 5 and 6 to discuss the European Community's request for an extension of the deadline for ratification of the International Natural Rubber Agreement. Sixteen consuming countries have ratified the agreement but Belgian and Italian ratification is awaited.

CHINA

The first contracts for oil exploration off China's shores are likely to be signed with foreign oil companies in the first quarter of 1983, according to Mr Melvin Searis, commercial counsellor at the United States Embassy in Peking.

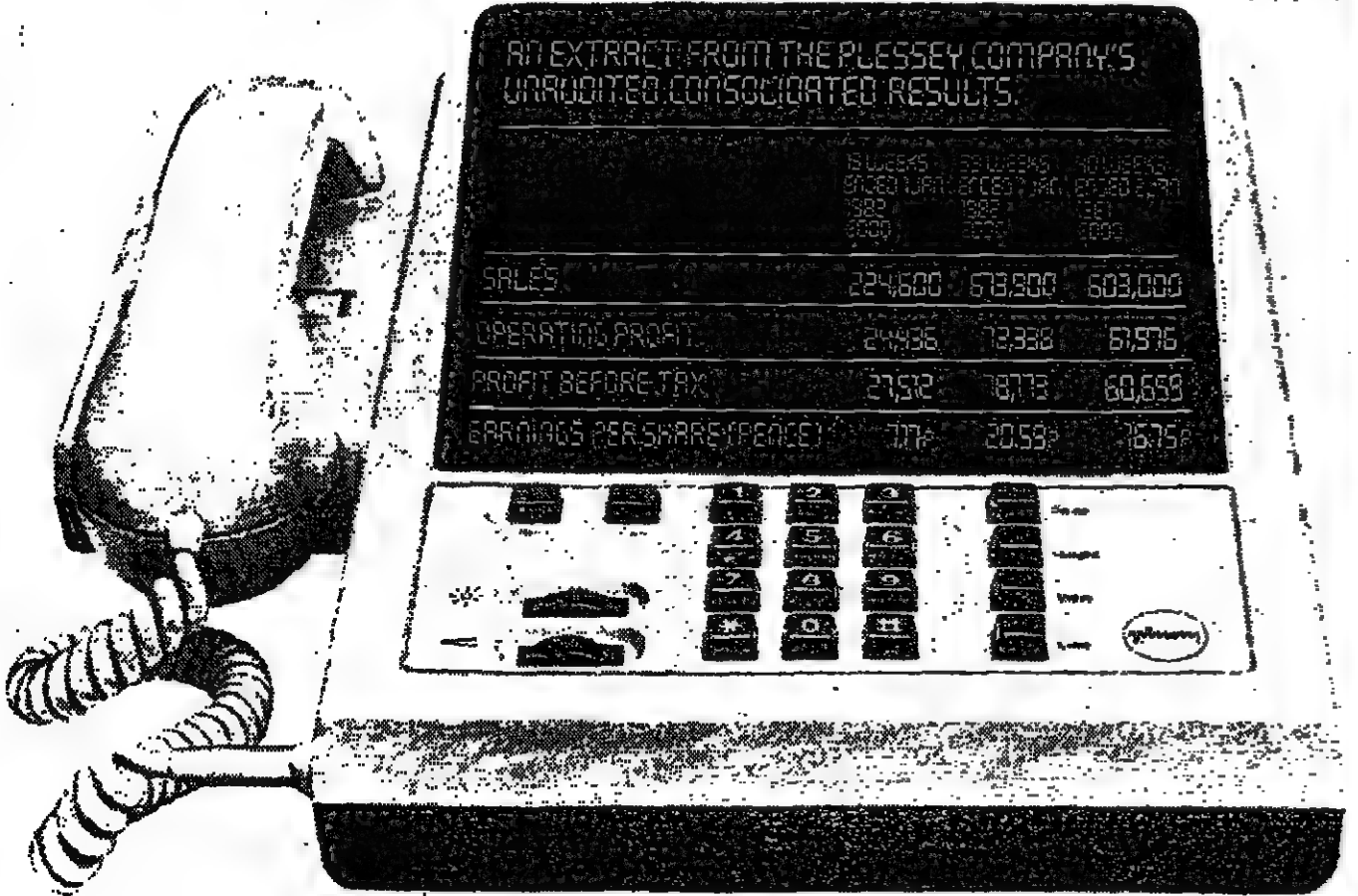
AUSTRALIA

De Beers' diamonds selling arm, the Central Selling Organisation, is the only group with a capacity to handle the quantity of diamonds expected from the Argyle deposit in North-West Australia, according to Mr Doug Anthony, the Australian Trade Minister.

Plessey continues excellent performance

NINE MONTHS' RESULTS

- Group sales up 14.6% to £673.9 million
- Pre-tax profits up 29.9% to £78.8 million
- Earnings per share up 22.9%
- Exports up 31.5%



The Plessey Company plc, Vicarage Lane, Iford Essex IG1 4AQ.

International Standard Electric Corporation

9% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970 between International Standard Electric Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Trustee, \$1,483,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed for the sinking fund on April 1, 1982 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to April 1, 1982.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

M 4	2043	3387	4658	5519	7094	8277	9453	10700	12237	14857	16738	18286	19750	21342	22368	23322	25853	26881	28177
10	2112	3384	4686	5525	7092	8201	9705	10723	12350	14890	16841	18314	19881	21352	22399	23380	25875	27028	28196
40	2114	3466	4689	5527	7092	8306	9742	10724	12371	14898	16847	18327	19898	21355	22400	23383	25880	27032	28202
50	2124	3474	4716	5543	7100	8329	9770	10729	12384	14910	16859	18339	19907	21367	22410	23393	25890	27042	28212
345	2131	3471	4716	5547	7101	8326	9771	10732	12397	14940	16889	18369	19937	21397	22440	23423	25920	27072	28242
352	2138	3478	4718	5557	7110	8327	9774	10733	12405	14943	16892	18373	19943	21403	22446	23429	25926	27078	28248
401	2138	3478	4718	5557	7110	8327	9774	10733	12405	14943	16892	18373	19943	21403	22446	23429	25926	27078	28248
511	2231	3543	4735	5573	7231	8389	9820	10754	12568	14982	16931	18410	19978	21438	22481	23464	25961	27113	28283
612	2231	3543	4735	5573	7231	8389	9820	10754	12568	14982	16931	18410	19978	21438	22481	23464	25961	27113	28283
618	2231	3543	4735	5573	7231	8389	9820	10754	12568	14982	16931	18410	19978	21438	22481	23464	25961	27113	28283
625	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
632	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
638	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
645	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
652	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
658	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
665	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
672	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
678	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
685	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
692	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
698	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
705	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
712	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
718	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
725	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
732	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
738	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
745	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
752	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
758	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
765	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
772	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
778	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
785	2238	3561	4746	5588	7256	8401	9831	10782	12599	14993	16942	18421	20000	21460	22503	23486	25983	27135	28305
792	2238	3561																	

PEOPLE

Neill Scott's ticket to efficiency

Neill Scott, six foot and 17 stone, swims to keep down his weight, but presumably puts it on again playing championship bridge. Neill will add a touch of much needed solidity next Wednesday to an unreliable looking Unlisted Securities Market, the stock exchange's twilight market for up and coming companies whose pedigree is a bit short.

This USM has had its reputation tarnished by the mishaps of American Communications Industries and Euroflame to name but two. Scott's company, Owners Abroad, took the unusual step when it went public in January of actually warranting the profits it is about to announce.

As if the accidents to Euroflame and ACI were not enough, anything to do with aircraft now reeks of Laker. But Owners is really a travel agency cum air broker. It books seats on planes rather than buy or borrow them, and Laker's crash steered customers Neill Scott's way.

Beer gets a new advocate



Alan Tilbury

What is the missing ingredient the brewers need in their trade association? Sadly, a long experience in the corridors of power. Leaving the industry is Ronald Matthews, who joined the Brewers Society as its 15-shilling-a-week office boy in 1933. He is retiring as secretary to the EEC's ideas of what makes a good pint, as well as persuading port-drinking ministers that beer is already taxed enough. Mr. Tilbury has been hired as executive director of the legal knowhow. He was once Attorney-General of Bechuanaland/Botsswana.

Something, soon will be done about the plight of the down-trodden engineer who has for so long been ignored as a candidate for the boardroom in preference to those equipped with a "real" education. A new company called Gaming Executives Ltd. has been set up by an ex-manager of Rolls-Royce, Ralph Laing (20 years in management) to offer to the production manager and the engineer the chance to become top dog for a day. Exports, claims Executive Gaming, which takes five or six years of normal working to assimilate can be compressed into a few days.

Ken Baker's pet forum

A funny thing happened to Kenneth Baker on the way to the Forum yesterday: he found a computer there. Baker is the Minister for Information Technology and the Forum is the name of the library on the ground floor of the Institute of Directors' club in Pall Mall.

Baker, a member of the nearby Athenaeum and Carlton, was there for that unlikely addition to clubland, an ICL 2904 computer. Now, ICL members in the club's armchairs but feed into the computer their firms' figures and get advice on how to keep out of the red.

John Chandler is director of planning at Reed International, owners of the *Daily Mirror* for whom Chandler is the late Sir William Connor used to write.

Chandler is a bit of a Cassandra himself, but he does his doomaying not in the pop press but in heavy weight books among them *Techniques of Scenario Planning* (with Reed economist Paul Cockle), just out from McGraw-Hill.

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sir Peter Matthews, chairman of Vickers has been elected president of the Engineering Employers' Federation. Also elected were two new vice-presidents: Mr. Allen Greenwood, deputy chairman of British Aerospace; and Mr. Duncan McDonald, chairman of Northern Engineering Industries.

Mr. Dennis Adams, Mr. Ronald Bessell, Mr. Douglas Bull, Mr. Ian Cox, Mr. Amir Elion, Mr. Bernard Joffe, Mr. John Kibbe, Mr. Paul Manley, Mr. Terence Simonian and Mr. Nigel Tapley have been appointed directors of Samuel Montagu International.

Mr. John Cowland, Mr. Frank Ellis and Mr. Tom Niccum have been appointed directors of 3M United Kingdom.

America's car industry is making huge losses. Bailey Morris reports

Why Detroit is praying for an economic upturn



Mr Lee Iacocca, Chrysler chairman — The K-Car helped boost sales in 1981, but the company is still in deep financial trouble.

Washington

Like dominoes, American car companies are falling prey to the continuing American recession, reporting huge losses like the one announced this week by the Chrysler Corporation, weakest of Detroit's "big three" firms.

For months, Wall Street analysts have been talking of "depression-like conditions" in the industry, correctly predicting that the Ford Motor Company, which reported a \$1,060m (£576m) loss last week, would have devastating results and that Chrysler would report yet another annual loss in the region of \$500m.

In the event Chrysler's fourth quarter results were somewhat better than expected (a loss of \$66m compared with \$235m in the comparable period in 1980) but the full year loss was fractionally short of predictions at \$476m. But that is cold comfort for Chrysler: losses are running at about twice the level the company had set itself as a target.

Even General Motors, which earned a modest profit of more than \$300m in 1981, lost money on its primary car-making business last year.

The industry is in very bad shape and experts expect the dismal conditions to continue into the second quarter of this year.

Sales volume in the industry has been down by as much as 40 per cent some months, and prices are too high (averaging \$10,000 a car). Consumers are simply refusing to buy.

There are growing fears both in Congress and on Wall Street that Chrysler may not be able to survive another year like 1981.

"I don't think Chrysler can last much more than a year, if conditions like these continue," says a veteran Detroit-based car industry analyst.

Despite impressive gains made by Chrysler last year, in which it topped more than two-thirds off 1980's record loss of \$1,700m, the company is still in a very tight cash-flow position.

Last week, for example, it sold off its last big, profitable unit — a defence subsidiary which makes tanks for the American Government — to General Dynamics Corporation for nearly \$350m. This, coupled with cash in the bank amounting to more than \$400m, gives the company reserves of about \$750m which may appear substantial but is not when it is realized.

that Chrysler must have \$250m on hand each Friday just to meet its payroll and expenses.

Two consecutive years of poor sales, Chrysler is living a hand-to-mouth existence, Ford is living off its assets, and General Motors is cutting back sharply.

High interest rates persist and car sales in North America continue to slump, the worst scenario outlined by analysts is that Chrysler will be forced into bankruptcy; Ford will suspend North American car operations and concentrate on its profitable overseas units; and General Motors will emerge as the surviving domestic giant.

The Reagan Administration has made it very clear that this time there would be no government bail-out in the form of loan guarantees and other types of cash assistance.

But no one really expects the worst to occur. To prevent it from happening, both Chrysler and Ford have been cutting costs substantially in the past year by trimming their labour forces and closing down unprofitable plants.

Since 1979, Chrysler has

cut its labour force in half, from a high of 140,000 in the good, car-selling years to about 70,000 now. Ford has closed five plants and laid off one-third of its workforce, which now stands at about 100,000.

In addition, both Chrysler and Ford have managed to negotiate remarkable concessions with the United Auto Workers (UAW) who have agreed to cuts in wages and benefits in return for job guarantees. These deals, together with the cutbacks, should help to make Chrysler and Ford a good deal more efficient.

General Motors, the only major company which has not reached agreement with the union, will have to make big cuts in the months ahead.

Officials at General Motors announced four plant closures after talks with the UAW were broken off because union members re-

fused to concede the sizable "givebacks" in wage and benefit concessions requested by the company.

Company officials say more plant closures are probable if the economy fails to pick up and an agreement with the union is not reached before the present contract expires on September 15.

Rumours that GM is prepared to close as many as 12 additional plants between now and September have been circulating on Wall Street and this same figure was mentioned in a recent article of the industry in *Business Week* magazine.

There are no estimates of how many workers these closures would affect but industry analysts say that each time an assembly plant is closed, it costs about 8,000 jobs.

Despite all the cost-cutting efforts, the profitability of the car makers is not expected to improve markedly until volume rises substantially. This will not happen until the economy improves and the major companies find ways of rekindling public interest in their products.

Even in 1978 — the last good year for domestic companies when they produced more than 9.1m cars — consumers were beginning to display a decided lack of enthusiasm for American-made cars.

This trend has continued as consumers put off car purchases in record numbers, partly because of economic conditions and partly because "they don't like the cars," says an analyst at stockbrokers Bache, Halsey, Stuart, Shields.

Chrysler, with its popular K-Cars, was the only American car maker to show an increase in sales in 1981, thus moving its share of the domestic market up to 11.8 per cent from 10 per cent in 1980.

The General Motors J-Cars, did badly because they were both "too expensive and too slow for an American-made vehicle," the Bache analyst says.

In contrast to the good years, when domestic companies made almost 10 million cars a year, volume last year dropped to 6.2 million cars and in the first quarter of this year, the production rate was even lower.

Given the massive investment by the companies in modernized production facilities, these low volumes cannot be tolerated. Altogether, the big three companies will spend an estimated \$85,000m to upgrade facilities during the period from 1979 to 1985.

Mr Lee Iacocca, chairman of Chrysler, says his company has done everything it can to stimulate sales and the next step is up to the Government.

"At some point, the Federal Government is going to have to face up to the very serious problems of economic stagnation in this country. In the short term, it is going to have to get some people back buying cars, trucks and houses," Mr Iacocca said.

"The Government ought to get into the rebate business on its own, in the form of a \$1,500 investment tax credit for the purchase of a new, fuel-efficient car or truck," Mr Iacocca said.

He believes this could save the industry by increasing sales an estimated 1 million units a year and putting more than 250,000 people back to work.

HOW SALES HAVE FALLEN

	1978	1979	1980	1981
American Motors	170,739	162,057	149,438	138,682
Chrysler	1,142,258	645,593	650,017	729,873
Ford Motor	2,582,702	2,140,368	1,478,232	1,380,620
General Motors	5,385,282	4,917,911	4,116,482	3,796,596

Domestic car sales (including imports) in units

US and Japan: the chips are down

TECHNOLOGY: SEMICONDUCTORS

By Clive Cookson

Within the last year the American semiconductor industry has lost the race with the Japanese to produce the latest generation of memory chips. That defeat, the industry's first major humiliation by Japan, has led many Americans to write off the chip as yet another important product that will be supplied from the other side of the Pacific.

To keep a sense of perspective, however, it is important to remember that the Japanese firms have only dominated one sector of the semiconductor industry: they are talking about 70 per cent of the 64k RAM (random access memory) chips sold on the open world market. Admittedly, it is the most competitive segment, and one where comparisons are most easily made, but it is far from the whole story.

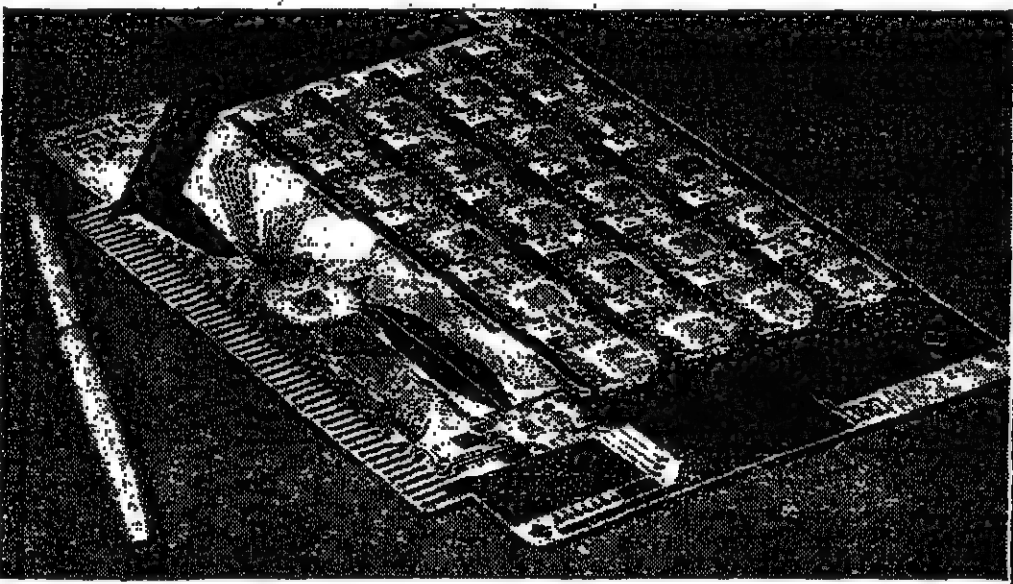
The chip — an integrated electronic circuit written onto a wafer of silicon — comes in two main categories. One is the memory chip, which stores information. The other is the microprocessor, which processes information. The former may be falling into Japanese hands, but the leading edge of microprocessor technology is still very much American territory.

At this month's International Solid State Circuits Conference in San Francisco, the industry's main annual showcase, several American companies announced morale-boosting advances in microprocessor technology. Most spectacular is Hewlett-Packard's success in cramming 660,000 transistors on a silicon chip — comfortably beating previous records for dense packing.

Hewlett-Packard is putting into production a set of six "superchips", which provide three to eight times the circuit density of other commercially available processors. Together they form the nucleus of a minicomputer which the company is expected to announce next year. It is likely to offer the performance of a big mainframe computer, and Hewlett-Packard may be the first company whose salesmen can honestly offer "a mainframe for your office desk".

Circling the new Hewlett-Packard chips are one micron (a millionth of a metre) wide. That must take the conventional method of making chips — photographing the circuitry on to the silicon and then etching it out chemically — to its ultimate limit.

Semiconductor engineers strive to pack their integrated circuits closer and closer together because the system can perform faster if the electric signals have less distance to travel. But they have to pay a design penalty for high power density, by making special arrangements to carry away the heat generated. Hewlett-Packard has solved the problem by mounting the chips directly on to a copper-cored cooling board.



Superchip: each semiconductor like the one above can, within a second, process the amount of information in 150 full-length books. It is American company Hewlett-Packard's new 32-bit microprocessor, containing up to 660,000 transistors on each quarter-inch square of silicon. It is wired to a copper-cored computer board

16-bit microprocessor market are the American trio of Intel, Motorola and Texas Instruments. All are pushing the technology ahead rapidly, presenting the Japanese with a moving target that will be hard to shoot down.

Texas Instruments is steadily announcing members of its new TMS 99000 family of "third generation" 16-bit microprocessors, claimed to be the fastest in the world. The company's strategy will be to sell them hard for application outside the electronics industry. The chips would be in the front line of the campaign to automate production in the traditional heavy industries.

On top of its leading position in general-purpose microprocessors, Texas Instruments is committing considerable resources to the development of special chips for telecommunications — a market growing by 20 per cent a year and projected to reach \$5,500 million by 1991. In San Francisco this month, the company announced a new series of signal processors which can convert signals from the digital (one-off) language of computers to the analogue (smooth wave) form of the human voice. Potential applications include speech recognition and synthesis.

Even in memory chips the Japanese lead is not as clear cut as some United States commentators have made out. For the American firms that are thought to be the closest head-to-head twin of the Japanese are IBM and AT&T. They have been mass-producing 64k RAM chips for use in their own products — com-

puters and telecommunications equipment — for about three years. But they do not sell chips on the open market and therefore do not show up in the world semiconductor trade statistics.

Both companies are ready to make the next four-fold leap in chip storage capacity. AT&T's manufacturing subsidiary, Western Electric, will start making a 256k RAM later this year, and IBM is apparently set to produce a 288k RAM. But, again, both corporations are likely to use their whole production in-house.

The only American company that is ready to go for the 256k market is Motorola, which seems to be emerging as the most successful of the struggling United States "merchant" semiconductor manufacturers. Motorola is also the only American firm to have challenged the Japanese successfully in the 64k market, where it has 20 per cent of world sales.

Immos, Britain's state-funded attempt to break into semiconductor mass-production, is getting ready to make 64k RAM chips this summer at its new factory in Newport, South Wales. It is late into a market where prices have plunged to as low as £2 for a chip that can store the same quantity of information as this article, but Immos executives still hope that their chips will offer a superior performance.

The 64k RAM market has great growth potential for two or three years before the 256k chips come on stream in large numbers. And the Japanese cannot afford to increase their 70 per cent share, even if they could,

because they dare not provoke the United States into curbing imports of semiconductor chips, protectionist noises are now being heard across the Atlantic, with the Department of Defence muttering about a threat to national security from Japan's penetration of the memory chip market. If import controls are introduced, Immos need not suffer, because it has a factory in Colorado in which to manufacture behind the barrier.

In the long term, Immos's fortunes may rest on a new type of chip, the "transparent", which the company plans to introduce in 1984. More than any other semiconductor, it will combine the functions of the two types of chip, microprocessor and memory, in a single piece of silicon. That really will be a "computer on a chip".

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13 1/4%
Barclays	13 1/4%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	13 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	13 1/4%
Midland Bank	13 1/4%
Nat Westminster	13 1/4%
TSB	13 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	13 1/4%

Business Editor

ICI's note of caution

The mood at Millbank has changed appreciably from a year ago when ICI seemed to be making almost a political point about Government economic strategy by talking gloomily about the trading outlook and cutting the dividend for the first time in 40 years.

At least there is now an underlying confidence that the group has taken itself in hand by reshaping the business to cope with a changed trading environment in the 1980s and 1990s. But the tone from yesterday's statement makes it clear that ICI expects to get little help from the market-place.

What ICI, and for that matter the rest of the world chemical industry, is having to adjust to is much slower rates of growth. Even if the industry could match its earlier expansion of around twice the increase of gross national product, it would still be left with acres of overcapacity.

Even now there are about 30 per cent more ethylene plants than required, so what ICI was warning yesterday was not to expect the chemical cycle to be repeated this time with a sharp pick up to a peak sometime in 1983. The world is not going to behave like the 1970s more for the chemical industry.

Meanwhile, ICI's final quarter proved as robust as outsiders expected with fourth quarter pre-tax profits up to £114m, against £86m in the stronger-than-expected third quarter and last year's very depressed £7m. Confusing the picture, however, was a £20m currency bonus on export debts arising in earlier quarters.

There are at least two elements in the pre-tax profits recovery from £284m to £335m for the full year. One is simply the absence of the previous year's configuration of adverse circumstances — world recession, high interest rates, strong sterling and cost pressures. Some of those factors are still hurting ICI.

The recession is not helping with chemical volume in the fourth quarter only 2 per cent ahead. Weakness in Britain is being compensated by a stronger showing in Western Europe. The "stirring" Deutschmark rate is not proving so injurious and an export business losing £200m the previous year scraped back into the black in 1981.

ICI has also taken steps to put its house in order with the restructuring last year, which cost the group another £50m, from overall fixed costs. And the capital spending programme has been cut from £724m to £411m with the hope that lower working capital needs has allowed the group to live within its cash flow. Certainly there has been,

no deterioration in the balance sheet to suggest any money-raising moves except if the group wants to expand in the United States as the new chairman appears to be thinking.

Perhaps the best measure of ICI's confidence comes in the dividend where the increases in the gross distribution from from 24.3p to 27.1p at the top end of expectations, particularly when it is uncovered on current cost figures. The near 12 1/2 per cent yield at 328p suggests more scope for the shares after this week's setback with profits heading back towards £500m this year and full dividend restoration.

Insurance

First report

The first report of the Insurance Ombudsman confirms what everyone outside the insurance industry (and some within) knew to be the case — that there is a need for an impartial arbitration service to deal with the public's insurance complaints.

During the first nine months of operation the Ombudsman received more than 1,500 enquiries though only 441 concerned the 44 member companies of the Ombudsman's Bureau, set up on the initiative of three of the big insurers, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and Legal and General.

Predictably, household insurance provoked the greatest number of complaints closely followed by motor insurance. In 59 cases the insurance company concerned improved its original offer to the policyholder.

But the overall impression is that the largest number of complaints arise because policyholders either do not understand their policies, do not read them, or have been misled. "I am disturbed by the number of people who tell me that because they do not understand forms, or cannot read very well, they let someone else fill in the details on their proposal form and then sign without checking it," commented Ombudsman James Haswell.

The report has received an enthusiastic welcome from the British Insurance Brokers Association. The association points out that the Ombudsman received more than twice as many enquiries about non-member companies as about member companies, which lends additional support to the statement by Reginald Eyre, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Insurance Affairs, who expressed the hope that the insurance industry would consider the advantages to the consumer of an industry-wide complaints procedure.

Allied Irish Banks Limited

Allied Irish Banks Ltd. announce that with effect from close of business on 25th February 1982 their Base Rate is reduced from 14% to 13 1/4% p.a.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Ratio
124	100	98	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	74	—	10.0	8.1
75	62	60	Airprug Group	120	—	4.7	6.7
51	33	32	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6
205	187	185	Bardon Hill	201	—	9.7	4.8
104	70	68	Deborah Services	70x2	—	6.0	8.5
131	97	95	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.9
83	78	76	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7
78	46	45	George Blair	51	—	6.4	7.2
102	33	32	Ind. Pref. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7
106	100	98	Isis Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8
113	94	92	Jackson Group	96	—	7.0	7.3
130	108	106	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8
334	250	248	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5
55	51	50	Scramons "A"	59	—	5.3	9.0
222	160	158	Toddy & Carlisle	124	—	10.7	6.7
15	10	9	Twinkl Ord	13	—	15.0	19.2
44	25	24	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0
103	73	71	Walter Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.4
263	212	210	W. S. Yeates	228	—	13.1	5.7

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

International orders up one-third

Sales. In the first three months of the current 1981/82 financial year - i.e. from October 1 to December 31, 1981 - Siemens achieved sales of £2,043m, an increase of 13% over the comparable figure of the preceding year. German domestic business pulled slightly ahead of international business with a gain of 15% vs. 12%. While sales in electrical installations and components stagnated under the influence of a sagging economy, and growth in data systems and the lamp business was less than 10%, the power plant, medical engineering, and communications sectors showed gains of more than 15%.

New orders. The continuing weakness of the German economy was reflected clearly in the structure of new orders. Business in the Federal Republic of Germany showed a slight decline to £975m from last year's £979m. Major awards from OPEC countries were the primary factor in a 36% increase of new international orders, which climbed to £1,546m. Siemens thus recorded an overall total of £2,521m in new orders during the first quarter, 19% more than for the same period a year ago. Major contracts valued individually at over £7m accounted for some 20% of this amount. The two large Groups, Power Engineering and Communications, were particularly successful in acquiring contracts for sizable projects in the Middle Eastern oil countries as well as in Australia, Indonesia, and Nigeria. Power engineering, power plant business, and medical engineering achieved growth rates of over 25%.

Total orders in hand reached nearly £12.3bn, 5% more than at the close of the 1980/81 financial year. Inventories rose during the first quarter from £3,920m to £4,025m, thereby growing perceptibly slower than sales.

Employees. Major contracts like those mentioned must first go through the project planning stages and generally take several years to implement; moreover, the performance of certain portions is assigned to local subcontractors in the customer's country. For these reasons such contracts do not initially increase plant capacity utilization, with the result that the number of our

employees continued to decline. Overall, there was a 2% drop during the first quarter to 331,000 people. Of this total, 225,000 are working in the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West) and 106,000 abroad. In each case 2% fewer than a year ago. Since capacity utilization continues to be unsatisfactory, it is possible that in addition to the reduction of personnel by natural wastage some layoffs will have to be made on a selective basis.

Employment cost. The average number of our employees for the first quarter was 334,000 - 3% less than last year's comparable figure.

Employment cost, however, rose to £927m as against £866m last year.

Capital expenditure and investment. Primarily due to weather-induced project delays, the figure for capital expenditure and investment was 19% lower than for the first three months of the preceding year.

Net income. There was a slight rise in net income, although the rounded and translated figure (£33m) remained the same as last year's. At 1.6%, the net profit margin was thus below the 1.8% for the comparable period a year ago, but above the total year's average of 1.5%.

In £m	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	1/10/81 to 31/12/81	Change
New orders	2,119	2,521	+19%
Domestic business	979	975	0%
International business	1,140	1,546	+36%
Sales	2,043	2,521	+24%
Domestic business	845	968	+15%
International business	962	1,075	+12%

In £m	30/9/81	31/12/81	Change
Orders in hand	11,700	12,274	+5%
Inventories	3,920	4,025	+3%

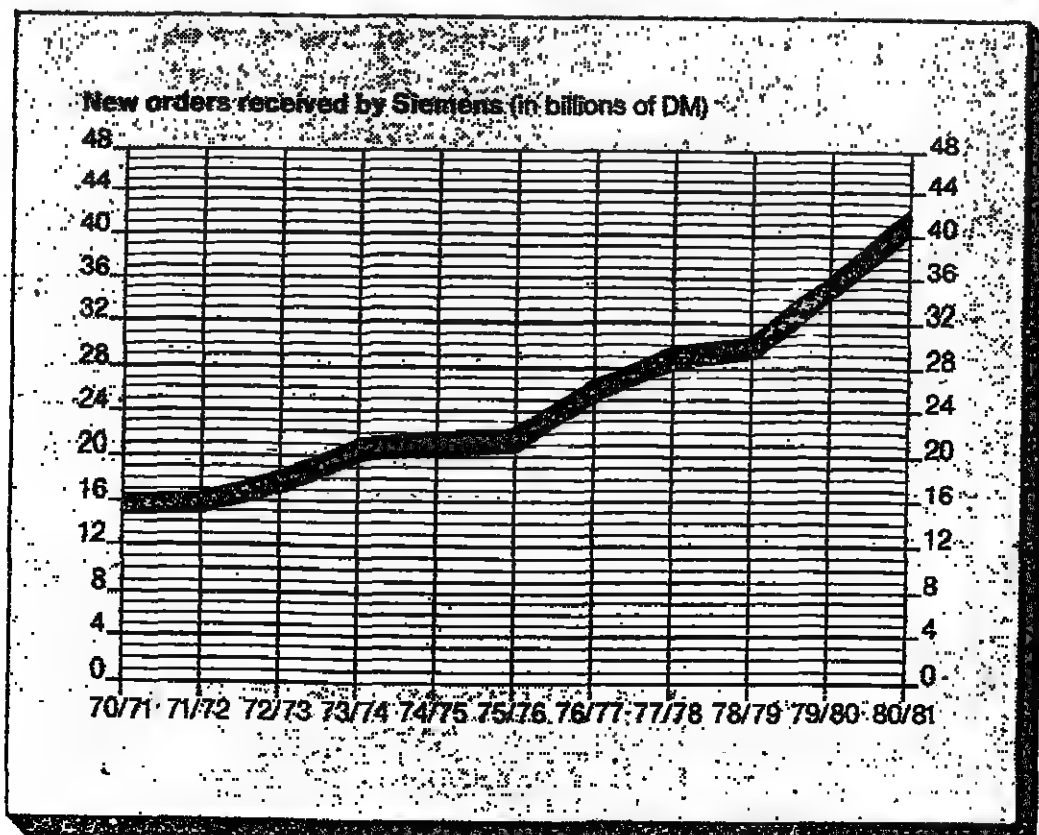
In thousands	30/9/81	31/12/81	Change
Employees	338	331	-2%
Domestic operations	230	225	-2%
International operations	108	106	-2%

	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	1/10/81 to 31/12/81	Change
Average number of employees in thousands	345	334	-3%
Employment cost in £m	866	927	+7%

In £m	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	1/10/81 to 31/12/81	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	58	72	+24%
Net income after taxes	33	33	0%
In % of sales	1.6	1.6	0%

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on December 31, 1981: £1 = DM 4.310.

Accelerated growth despite recession



The volume of new orders received by Siemens has increased two and a half times over the last decade. The last two financial years have shown particularly vigorous growth, with new order gains of 19% and 18%. In the first quarter of the current financial year Siemens again saw a 19% rise in new orders despite a persistently unfavourable world economy. While orders from the Federal Republic of Germany remained at last year's levels, international orders increased 36%.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

BUSINESS NEWS

ROWNTREE

Profit rise reinforces Huntley bid

Rowntree Mackintosh added fuel to its £72.5m bid for Huntley and Palmer yesterday with pretax profits for last year showing a 28 per cent rise to £40.6m.

Although profits were below forecasts it was enough to see Huntley's share price drop 2p to 105p, which matches the price placed on the group by Rowntree's offer, a mix of cash and shares. Rowntree's shares, down at first 2p at 164p, recovered to 168p.

The figures for the year to January 2, based on management estimates and unaudited, have been brought forward to present with the offer document. A 10.3 per cent lift in the final gross dividend to 157p, making a total payment of 11.42p, is proposed and new shareholders, assuming the bid goes through, would rank for the final.

Rowntree, which has had a strategic investment for 10 years in Huntley and Palmer and owns 23.8 per cent of the equity, has been rejected by the Huntley board who describe the bid as "wholly inadequate and unwelcome".

Mr Kenneth Dixon, head of the chocolate group, said again the bid was not a defensive move prompted by Allied Lyons building up its 4 per cent stake at the end of last year.

Nor, he said, did it conflict with Rowntree's plans for further expansion in the United States, indicated at last year's £42m rights issue.

"We have been looking in the US but have not yet found the right profitable business. This bid does not stop us looking," he said.

The main thrust of Rowntree's argument is that Huntley, with estimated profits of £7.5m for 1981 and total borrowings of £33m or gearing of 49 per cent, cannot afford to update plant and machinery and improve its competitiveness.

The merger, it says, would benefit Huntley in the long-term by providing the capital it needs.

PLESSEY

30pc better

Plessey, the British electronics giant has announced a 30 per cent profit increase for the first nine months of the financial year to January 1, 1982, compared with the same period last year.

Pre-tax profits for the last quarter rose to £27.5m from £22m the previous year, bringing the nine-month total to £78.7m from £60.7m.

Telecommunications contributed substantially to the growth of the company, operating profits rising to £37m in the first nine months of the year compared with £29m last time.

Aerospace and engineering increased their profits by 14 per cent, while microelectronics rose by 25 per cent.

Third quarter sales were £224.6m compared to the £204.3m level of the previous year, bringing the total for the nine months to £673.9m compared with £603m a year earlier.

Third quarter earnings per share were 7.17p, up from 6.59p and the nine-month earnings per share level was 20.59p, compared with 16.75p the previous year. Interim dividend is 3.542p, up 10 per cent.

CHARTERHOUSE

Bid for CCP

Charterhouse Petroleum emerged yesterday as the bidder for CCP North Sea Associates, a small North Sea exploration investment company in which Mr Percy Cluff's Cluff Oil holds nearly 30 per cent of the shares.

CCP's shares, which are traded on the Unlisted Securities Market, were suspended last week at 145p pending details of the bid approach. Last night they rose to 185p.

The terms are that Charterhouse Petroleum is offering two of its own shares plus 50p in cash for each ordinary share in CCP. At last night's closing price for Charterhouse shares of 71p, they value the bid at about £15 or 192p a share.



Mr Kenneth Dixon, chairman Rowntree Mackintosh.

Subject to shareholders' approval, Cluff Oil has undertaken to recommend the bid and will pledge its own 29.9 per cent interest to acceptance of the offer.

CCP's chief asset is a 6 per cent net production interest in the North Sea's Buchan field, operated by BP. It also has a 5 per cent interest in two other blocks in the Moray Firth, 12/28 and 20/8. Significantly Charterhouse Petroleum has interests in two neighbouring blocks to these, 20/2 and 21/7.

Cluff Oil will emerge, if the deal goes through, with between 3 and 7 per cent of the shares in Charterhouse Petroleum. The proceeds will help to finance Cluff's other explorations in the North Sea.

RENSON

Payout warning

Renson Goldfields Consolidated, the mining company formed last year from Consolidated Gold Fields' Australian interests, made a pretax loss of A\$4.87m (£2.86m) in its first half year. An interim dividend of 5 cents has been declared, but Mr Max Roberts, RGC's chairman, warned that in the full year shareholders may not receive the 50 cents forecast at the time of the merger.

The company blames low metal prices, industrial disputes, and loss of production for results below those expected. The advantages of high tin prices were more than offset by industrial disputes, and the company warns that tin prices are falling again.

Output from Mount Lyell, the copper mine, fell because the mine plan dictated that lower grade ore be won. Mineral production suffered from depressed titanium prices. All the company's operations were hindered by the strength of the Australian dollar. Nevertheless,

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The company blames low metal prices, industrial disputes, and loss of production for results below those expected. The advantages of high tin prices were more than offset by industrial disputes, and the company warns that tin prices are falling again.

Output from Mount Lyell, the copper mine, fell because the mine plan dictated that lower grade ore be won. Mineral production suffered from depressed titanium prices. All the company's operations were hindered by the strength of the Australian dollar. Nevertheless,

the group with about half of its profits. Aerospace and engineering increased their profits by 14 per cent, while microelectronics rose by 25 per cent.

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SPORT

BOXING

Handy Jones should be able to palm off Dane

From Srikumar Sen, Copenhagen, Feb 25

They say you can tell a lot about a person from his handshake. The solid grip that Colin Jones gave me on arrival here yesterday said rather more than words that the Welshman from Gorseon was the strong, silent type, which everyone knows. It confirmed that his injured right hand has healed completely at last.

Too often in the past Jones has failed to allow fears about his damaged hand by proffering his last three fingers on meeting someone. When shortly after meeting Jones I spoke to the tall, slender, dark-haired Dane, who looks more like one of his country's table tennis players than the man to face the Welshman tomorrow night for the vacant European welterweight title, I thought how ironic it was that his name should be Hans Henrik Palm. He has been studying films of the one-handed Jones in action.

With Jones's hands in good shape, Eddie Thomas, his manager, assured me that his British and Commonwealth champion will take a grip on matters from the first bell—well, after the first round. No repetition of the two

bouts with Kirkland Laing when Laing raced away to be thumped, well and truly only in the ninth round both times.

Palm, on the other hand, has had the benefit of the experience of Jorge Hansen, his veteran stablemate, who is the only man to have beaten him twice, his only losses in 39 bouts. Hansen is a bit like Jones, Palm has been learning how to hit and not be hit.

Jones's body shots are enough to double up the best and that is what he aims to do to the Dane: double him up and follow through to the head as he did with Curtis Ramsey, the clever American, in Cardiff. Then Jones was a little too eager to clout him the second time and was disqualified.

Hansen, who is built like Jones, dropped Palm twice in their two encounters though the 26-year-old Dane picked himself up and carried on boxing.

So things are generally looking good for Jones, even though it is the Welshman's first professional bout abroad. The Danish crowd usually come to see a boxing match rather than just their man. Their exemplary behaviour

Graham decides to excite the world

By Clive White

Minutes after Herol Graham, the British and Commonwealth light-middleweight champion, had punched his way through Chris Christian, to a ninth round defeat on Wednesday evening, he announced that he was leaving the world of boxing to go to the United States to pursue a career in the film industry.

The boyish innocence of his voice made the suggestion sound preposterous until one recalled the bruising efficient performance he had just handed out. Criticized in the past for being unnecessarily flashy and over-defensive, he took one look at the modestly proportioned Christian and another at his bank balance and decided it was time to excite the world.

Bobby Naidoo, his manager, disclosed that he had received offers from Australia, Korea and the United States. "In the end we shall go where the money is, and there is every chance that Herol will be in the early stages of a career in the film industry," he said. The Americans would be more appreciative than say, London audiences of his defensive qualities, which though hardly in evidence on his latest

Minter will help juniors

Seventeen months after holding the world middleweight championship, Alan Minter has decided to retire. At the age of 30, he no longer has the desire to work his way back through the ranks to another world title attempt.

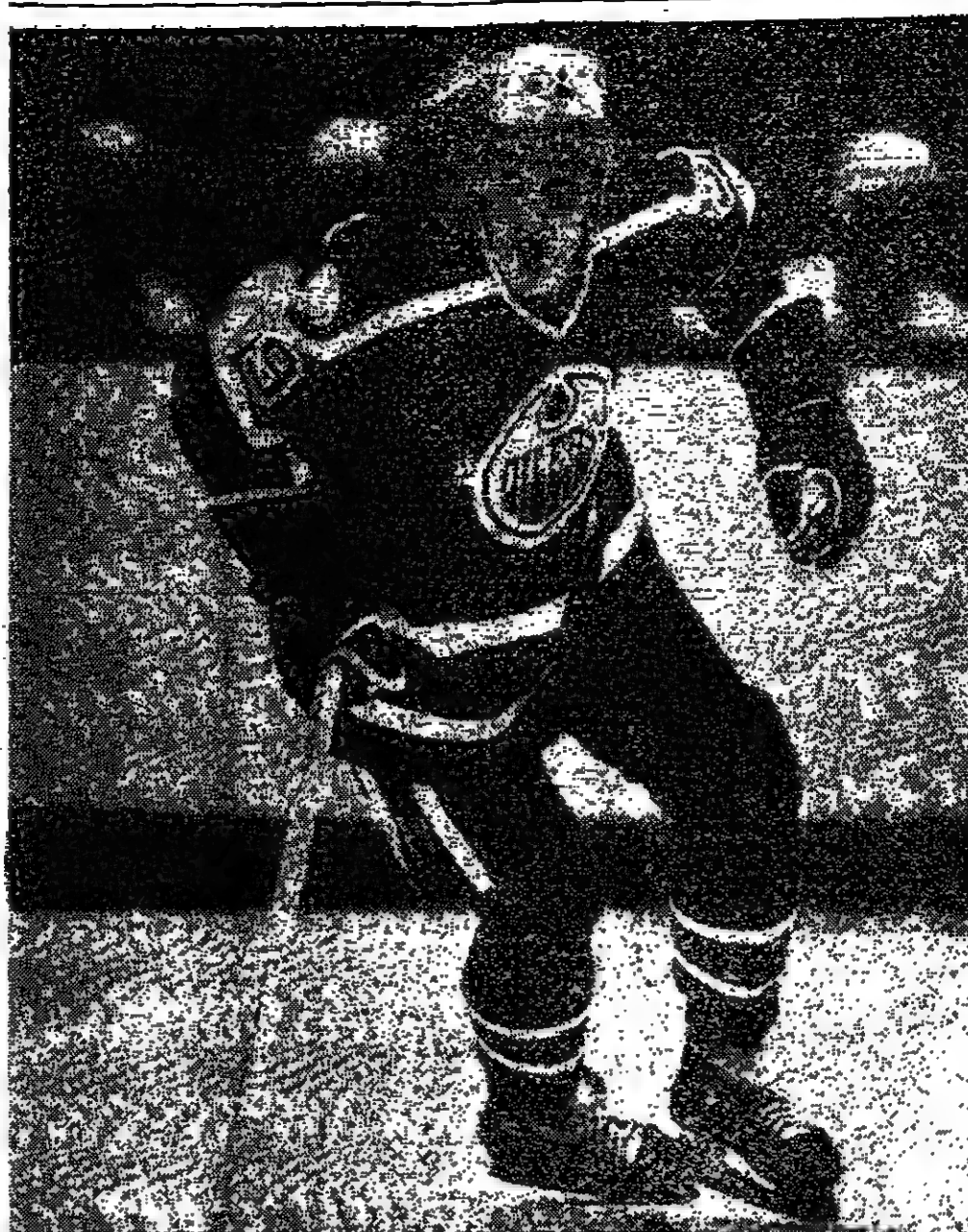
Knocked out by Tony Sibson last September, he saw even the European title and Sibson move further into the distance on Sunday when the Leicester man outpointed Dwight Davidson to claim his own world title date.

Minter, who has always been keen to encourage the younger professionals in the sport, will plough back the fruits of his own experience by helping to train and instruct junior ABA champions on week-long scholarships. This sponsorship, by DAF Trust, was announced yesterday.

"It is a thought to be the first link between a professional and the ABA," Minter said. "I spent many hours on my own about it. Boxing is the only job I've ever done so it's very hard. It was a long, hard road but I had a good career."

His amateur and professional career spanned 18 years during which time he built up a reputation as a boxer who could punch. He was labelled "Boom-boom"

ICE HOCKEY



Great Gretzky's goal record

From Ross Waby, New York, Feb 23

Wayne Gretzky, of the Edmonton Oilers, scored his 70th, 71st and 72nd goals of the professional ice hockey season last night, breaking the old record of 66.

In the remaining 16 games of the National Hockey League season he is expected to push the record close to 100. His feat, in a 6-3 defeat of the Buffalo Sabres, brought a telegram from President and Mrs Reagan. Congratulations on your extraordinary achievement, it said.

Gretzky has a league record of 163 points—56 goals and 107 assists—last season, and became the first player ever to score more than two points in a game. This season he has 176 points already.

Gretzky began skating at two and a half on a home rink built by his father and entered organized hockey at six. His father told him that year of sacrifice would be rewarded.

That prophecy was realized last month when the Edmonton Oilers renegotiated Gretzky's contract, agreeing to pay him more than \$20m over the next 21 years.

ROUND-UP

BADMINTON

Goode's defeat denies England clean sweep

By Richard Eaton

England spent yesterday afternoon at Huddersfield Sports Centre on the brink of their third successive title in the triangular challenge against Sweden and Japan, sponsored by Crest Hotels.

They had an 11-point lead over Sweden with Japan in third place and three players in the semi-finals of the singles. It was a further display of the muscle that the international arena.

At the last moment, though, they were checked by an attack of hiccup. First Torbjorn Petersson, a last-minute substitute in the tournament when Thomas Kihlstrom withdrew, ranked only eighth in Sweden, inflicted England's first defeat, when he beat a tentative and nervous Andy Goode, the national number one, 15-10, 15-10. That denied England the clean sweep of the semi-finals they had been expecting.

There followed an even bigger surprise when Mike Tredgett and John Dew, the Friends Provident Masters champions, were beaten 15-10, 15-10 by the No 2 Swedish pair, Claes Nordberg and Lars Wengberg, who put them into the final against Goode and Ray Stevens. The Swedes had to win both events to deny England the title.

Defeat for Tredgett and Dew came three days after they had been announced second favourites in the proceedings for the All-England championships.

Nordberg is one of badminton's most unpredictable talents. Three years ago when Sweden beat England in the Thomas Cup, he and Stefan Karlsson beat Tredgett and Stevens. A year later they succeeded them as European champions, a title they still hold. The season after that the men were split and Nordberg's fortunes suffered a decline. Able to beat his borders on the senior

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leigh lose main cogs

By Keith Macklin

Leigh officials feared the worst as they awaited the outcome of yesterday's disciplinary committee meeting at Leeds and the worst happened.

Leigh will face Hull Kingston Rovers on Huddersfield in the Challenge Cup second round tomorrow night. But two of their players, the pack leader Tommy Martyn and the scrum half Ken Green, despite personal appearances, have received suspensions of one match and two matches respectively.

Leigh are worst hit by the workings of justice other clubs have to play in this weekend's challenge cup ties without important team members. Although Wigan have not lost main cogs, the absence of two forwards, the experienced Shaw and the promising young McLaughlin, will not help their cause against the cup holders Widnes. Widnes will themselves be without their latest player, can McLaughlin will not help their cause against the cup holders Widnes. Widnes will themselves be without their latest player, can McLaughlin will not help their cause against the cup holders Widnes.

In the case of Wigan's Shaw the player can be replaced by the fates have conspired against him. He appeared against his sending off

GOLF

Stay amateur, says Bonallack

Young golfers aiming to become professionals were given a firm warning yesterday by Michael Bonallack, Britain's most famous amateur.

Bonallack, now 47, was speaking two weeks before his proposed election as president of the English Golf Union. He said that 200 British players annually seek reinstatement as amateurs, and commented: "I am not sure many youngsters think of the fact that to be a professional is to be a professional."

Bonallack said the Professional Golfers' Association used to be a place where a player could go to get a job. He said the cost of turning professional was high.

RUGBY UNION

Donovan recalled for fourth cap

By Peter West, Rugby Correspondent

Alun Donovan, of Swansea, will replace his injured club colleague, David Richards, in the Welsh centre for the international against England at Twickenham on Saturday night. It is the only change to the side which beat France 22-12 in Cardiff.

There is also an alteration among the reserves. The Cardiff lock, Robert Norster, coming in for Gareth Williams (Bridgend).

The choice of Ray Gravell, a new international partner provides Wales with a different type of centres for the seventh game running, and the versatile Donovan with his fourth cap.

The Welshing Cardiff centre, Pat Daniels, returned to the side against Australia last December and gave away the renowned Wallaby defence a lot of bother. Richards returned to the Irish international (lost 12-20 in Dublin) at the expense of Donovan. Then Daniels was dropped for the French match.

SKIING CONDITIONS

Depth (cm)	U	Piste	Off Piste	Run to resort	Weather (5pm)
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine
150	200	Good	Powder	Good	Fine

In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain, I refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from tourist boards:

GERMANY: Oberstdorf 50-100 Pwr Good -15; Garmisch 50-100 Pwr Good -15; Ischgl 50-100 Pwr Good -15; St. Anton 50-100 Pwr Good -15; Zermatt 50-100 Pwr Good -15.

SCOTLAND: Cairnmore: Main runs open, snow on lower slopes, but not on upper slopes. Cairnmore: Main runs open, snow on lower slopes, but not on upper slopes. Cairnmore: Main runs open, snow on lower slopes, but not on upper slopes.

ROWING

Clare move up to challenge

By a Special Correspondent

Clare moved into the challenge for the position when they caught the deposed head boat, Lady Margaret, to the cheers of the spectators at the Plovers on the second day of the Cambridge Lent. The new leaders, Trinity Hall, rowed over untroubled, but they were not too convincing over the second half of the day's course, so a fine race is likely tonight.

Although starting nearer first post, Downing, clocked by the 1981 CUBC president, James Palmer, at 45 off the start, again failed to reach the corner, catching Fitzwilliam going into the bend.

Caus continued to go for quick kills, pouncing on Peterhouse in the boat convey at the top, but Clare caught Churchill in the last few strokes.

Oriol keep their heads in front

By Jim Raiton

Oriol, stroked on bow side, kept off Koble's challenge for the second successive day to stay head crew in Oxford Torpids yesterday. On Wednesday, Koble closed to within half a length before catching a crab; yesterday, Oriol appeared to have found something extra, with a leugh to spare approaching the boat-houses and just under that at the finish. In division three St Edmund Hall II collided with the bank and sank.

There was no change at the top in the women's competition either. Jesus, Somerville and Lady Margaret Hall rowing over for the second successive day.

DATE	TIME	CLUB	SCORE
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100
FEBRUARY 24	10.00	ST. JOHN'S	100

HOCKEY

Stone cool Firebrands' ardour

By Sydney Friskin

Stone, one of two Midlands clubs to reach the final stages of the national indoor championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, qualified for the semi-finals at Crystal Palace last night before a capacity crowd of 700. Their early spurt enabled them to beat Firebrands, the Somerset champions, in an exciting match.

In 1975, under a different format, Stone reached the last 16 when they lost to Tulse Hill. Having come through this time

Reserves step into the spotlight

By Joyce Whitehead

Today and tomorrow provide curtain raisers for the home counties' event, the international matches which start on March 6. The international B teams from the four home countries are playing one another on the Lancashire cricket ground at Old Trafford. At 2.30 pm Scotland play England, followed by Wales v Ireland at 3.00 pm. Tomorrow play starts at 10.00 am.

The players have nothing to lose and, in some cases, much to gain. One or two, such as Mark Ekersell, who captained England

CRICKET

Rain hampers Test pitch preparation

From Peter McFarlane, Wellington, Feb 25

The first Test of the three-match series between Australia and New Zealand begins tomorrow with the threat of an unprepared wicket hanging over the sides. There is also some doubt about the pitch, which New Zealand were bowled out for 74 on a surface which had been affected by rain.

The Australians' preparation for the match has been hindered by the weather. The three-day game against North Island at Napier lasted only three and a half hours before rain set in and the match was abandoned.

New Zealand have included five seam bowlers in their 12 and no spinner. Hadlee, Cairns and Toner are expected to play, with the final choice being between Steeden and Chatfield. Martin Crowe, aged 19, a right-hand batsman will be making his Test debut.

Crowe, an exciting striker of the ball, played without success in the one-day series, which was won by Australia. He was forced to bat at No 3. In this match, that position will be taken by the veteran, John Morrison, who has been recalled at the age of 34 for his first Test since New Zealand's tour of India in 1976. Morrison has had an outstanding domestic season and captained Wellington

GOLF

Nicklaus in lake and into lead

From John Ballantine, Miami, Feb 25

Jack Nicklaus drove into the lake that cuts into the 18th fairway of the 1985 yard "Blue" course here, but he scored 67 and was an early joint leader in the first round of the Doral Eastern Open today. The 42-year-old Nicklaus, the winner of the inaugural European Open in 1976, and a little-known California, Eric Rattner.

Mark James scored 68 and would have joined them, had a well-struck birdie putt from nine feet been in and out of the hole on the last green. Severiano Ballesteros, who represents the host club, scored 69, after looking at one time as though he might overtake the long and testing course, with its many lakes coming into play at 22 on the 18th hole. Howard Clark had a modest 75; Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo were out late.

Nicklaus, whose marvellous 64 on Saturday, had a hole-in-one on the 18th hole, was the only one to make a hole-in-one on the 18th hole. He did not drive well, missing six fairways, but he hit 17 greens. The only serious error came at the 18th, which was his ninth hole, as he began on the 18th.

SQUASH

Fitness of Williams is decisive

After two days of competition the first round of the Lookers Masters tournament produced an unexpected result. The first eight matches went to the minimum of three games but last night in Bradford Dean Williams, of New Zealand, produced a cracking, five-game match.

Norman is ranked eighth in the world and Williams is one below him. Both players know each other's game intimately and played as if their lives depended upon it.

In the other match Jahangir Khan, the 18-year-old world champion, beat the South African number 1, Roland Watson. The burly Watson, ranked ten in the world, was in a stubborn mood and beat Jahangir 6-4 in the second game.

However, Jahangir stepped up a gear and won the match in 33 minutes, lashing the ball to all corners of the court with great venom.

QUARTER-FINALS: Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat Roland Watson (South Africa) 6-4, 3-0, 6-0.

FOURTH DIVISION: Colchester v Wigan.

FOOTBALL CONVICTION: Crystal Palace v Luton Town.

WOMAN'S INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v England.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated otherwise.

FOURTH DIVISION: Colchester v Wigan.

FOOTBALL CONVICTION: Crystal Palace v Luton Town.

WOMAN'S INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v England.

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SPORT

RACING

The tiger who has lost his teeth

By Michael Seely

Misfortune struck two old warriors at Wincanton yesterday. Bird's Nest, the winner of the 1981 National Hunt Cup, was pulled up before the start of the race. The other horse, the 1981 National Hunt Cup winner, was pulled up before the start of the race.



Nearly there: Walnut Wonder (Colin Brown), winner of the 1.45 at Wincanton yesterday, goes clear of Migrator (Richard Dennis) at the last furlong.

Border Incident was like a tiger at his fences in his early career, but he was pulled up before the start of the race. The other horse, the 1981 National Hunt Cup winner, was pulled up before the start of the race.

by four lengths in an incident-packed Jim Ford Cup. The oldest horse to take part in the afternoon's proceedings was the 15-year-old Cashab, who finished third to Beacon Time in the Fourth Handicap Chase. As the Blackmore Vale Hunt streamed across the field opposite the stands, Cashab looked a little out of his stride from home, but then he cleared the fence and was back in the race. Wayway was not at Wincanton, but a stable spokesman said that Beacon Time would not go for the Dick McCrory Cup at the Grand Military meeting.

At Kempton this afternoon Fred Winter, the man in form, could land a treble by winning

the Emblem Handicap Chase with Praxitus, the Grand Cognac Novices Chase with Princeton, and the Gibbs Land Rover Chase with Ramblers.

Kempton Park

Total: Double 2.30 and 3.30. Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0.

1.30 EMBLEM CHASE (Handicap: 22.31; 2m) (3 runners)
1.30 EMBLEM CHASE (Handicap: 22.31; 2m) (3 runners)
1.30 EMBLEM CHASE (Handicap: 22.31; 2m) (3 runners)

2.30 OTTAR COGNAC CHASE (Novices: 2m) (7)
2.30 OTTAR COGNAC CHASE (Novices: 2m) (7)
2.30 OTTAR COGNAC CHASE (Novices: 2m) (7)

3.30 GIBBS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (21.51; 3m) (5)
3.30 GIBBS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (21.51; 3m) (5)
3.30 GIBBS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (21.51; 3m) (5)

4.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
4.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
4.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

5.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
5.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
5.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

6.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
6.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
6.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

7.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
7.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
7.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

8.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
8.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
8.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

9.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
9.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
9.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

10.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
10.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
10.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

Southwell

Total: Double 2.30 and 3.30. Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0.

1.45 ELSTON CHAPEL CHASE (Novice handicap: £840; 3m 110yd) (14 runners)
1.45 ELSTON CHAPEL CHASE (Novice handicap: £840; 3m 110yd) (14 runners)
1.45 ELSTON CHAPEL CHASE (Novice handicap: £840; 3m 110yd) (14 runners)

2.15 NORMAN MOTTE HURDLE (selling handicap: £842; 2m) (12)
2.15 NORMAN MOTTE HURDLE (selling handicap: £842; 2m) (12)
2.15 NORMAN MOTTE HURDLE (selling handicap: £842; 2m) (12)

2.45 MINSTER CHASE (Handicap: £1,320; 2m 74yd) (12)
2.45 MINSTER CHASE (Handicap: £1,320; 2m 74yd) (12)
2.45 MINSTER CHASE (Handicap: £1,320; 2m 74yd) (12)

3.15 NEWARK CASTLE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,048; 2 1/4m) (18)
3.15 NEWARK CASTLE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,048; 2 1/4m) (18)
3.15 NEWARK CASTLE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,048; 2 1/4m) (18)

3.45 SOUTHWELL HUNTER CHASE (2873; 3 1/4m) (5)
3.45 SOUTHWELL HUNTER CHASE (2873; 3 1/4m) (5)
3.45 SOUTHWELL HUNTER CHASE (2873; 3 1/4m) (5)

4.15 QUEEN'S SCORCE HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (24)
4.15 QUEEN'S SCORCE HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (24)
4.15 QUEEN'S SCORCE HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (24)

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5.15 QUEEN'S SCORCE HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (24)
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7.15 QUEEN'S SCORCE HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (24)
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7.15 QUEEN'S SCORCE HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (24)

Warwick results

Total: Double 2.30 and 3.30. Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0.

2.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
2.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
2.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

2.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
2.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
2.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

3.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
3.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
3.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

3.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
3.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
3.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

4.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
4.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
4.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

4.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
4.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
4.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

5.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
5.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
5.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

5.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
5.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
5.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

6.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
6.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
6.00 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

6.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
6.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)
6.30 STANLEY HURDLE (Handicap: £800; 2m) (12)

Wincanton results

Total: Double 2.30 and 3.30. Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0.

1.30 EMBLEM CHASE (Handicap: 22.31; 2m) (3 runners)
1.30 EMBLEM CHASE (Handicap: 22.31; 2m) (3 runners)
1.30 EMBLEM CHASE (Handicap: 22.31; 2m) (3 runners)

2.30 OTTAR COGNAC CHASE (Novices: 2m) (7)
2.30 OTTAR COGNAC CHASE (Novices: 2m) (7)
2.30 OTTAR COGNAC CHASE (Novices: 2m) (7)

3.30 GIBBS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (21.51; 3m) (5)
3.30 GIBBS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (21.51; 3m) (5)
3.30 GIBBS LAND ROVER HUNTER CHASE (21.51; 3m) (5)

4.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
4.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
4.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

5.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
5.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
5.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

6.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
6.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
6.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

7.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
7.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
7.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

8.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
8.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
8.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

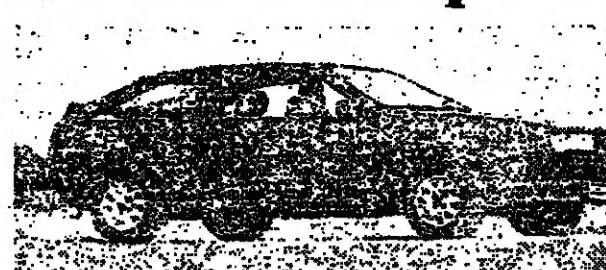
9.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
9.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
9.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

10.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
10.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)
10.0 ASHFORD HURDLE (Div 1: 4-5; 2m) (20)

Motoring by Peter Waymark

A question of consumption

The arrival in Britain this week of Talbot's new small hatchback, the Samba, may start a fresh wave of argument about the validity of the independent fuel consumption figures that manufacturers are obliged to quote when referring to economy in handbooks and advertisements.



Power with economy — the revised Scirocco GTI

Those interested in this contentious subject may remember that when the Samba was announced last autumn, the official test figures suggested that the GTI model was the most economical car in Europe. It clearly beat its rivals on all three counts, the miles per gallon figures being:

	City	Steady	Steady
	mpg	mpg	mpg
Samba 1.1 GL	48.7	61.4	44.8
Renault 5	41.6	58.2	41.7
Peugeot 104	38.5	57.9	41.0
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2

Last month, however, the Samba's claim to be top of the economy league was challenged by the latest version of the Renault 5, the GTI 5-speed, which bettered the Talbot on two of the three official figures, with 52.8mpg, 65.5mpg and 46.2mpg at 55mph. Although it fell short on the urban cycle test, which yielded 44.8mpg, two out of three seemed a winning margin.

But Talbot was not prepared to concede. It pointed out that if the three figures were mixed together to produce an overall average fuel consumption, then the Samba could still come out top. The formula used by the British motor industry in 1979 when giving its pledge to the Government to improve consumption of future models, 40 per cent of urban cycle, 50 per cent of 55mph and 10 per cent of 75mph.

Talbot calculated that on this basis the Samba, over 10,000 miles, uses 4.6 gallons less petrol than the Renault 5 GTI. Since the total fuel consumed would be 185.89 gallons by the Samba and 190.502 gallons by the Renault, the difference is hardly significant; but it does give Talbot a useful marketing ploy.

The composite miles per gallon figures for these and other models in my list, worked out as follows. Five of the eight cars are French; indeed, three, the Samba, 104 and Visa, share basically the same 1.1 litre engine:

	City	Steady	Steady
	mpg	mpg	mpg
Samba	48.7	61.4	44.8
Renault 5 GTI	52.8	65.5	46.2
Peugeot 104	38.5	57.9	41.0
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2

The weighting is, of course arbitrary, though it roughly corresponds to the pattern of car usage in Britain as revealed in surveys by the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory. My main objection to the formula is that it places too much emphasis on the steady 55mph figure, which is arguably the least realistic of the three.

In my experience, the urban cycle figure is a reasonable guide to what I expect to obtain driving the car in city traffic. The steady 55mph figure is strictly academic, since such a speed is illegal in Britain, though it does approximate to motorway cruising. But surely no one drives at a steady 55mph for any length of time, unless they use very straight, empty country roads.

Part of the trouble is that the 56 and 75mph steady speed tests derive from constant motorway conditions, respectively 90 and 120 kilometres. To give a more appropriate cruising figure for British roads, the chosen steady speed should be somewhere between:

	City	Steady	Steady
	mpg	mpg	mpg
Samba	48.7	61.4	44.8
Renault 5 GTI	52.8	65.5	46.2
Peugeot 104	38.5	57.9	41.0
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2

On the Continent, car manufacturers, while using the same three test figures, employ a different method of arriving at the overall average. They simply weight the figures, equally, which in a country like Germany will probably reflect the higher proportion of motorway driving. Using this system, the results for my eight models are:

	City	Steady	Steady
	mpg	mpg	mpg
Samba	48.7	61.4	44.8
Renault 5 GTI	52.8	65.5	46.2
Peugeot 104	38.5	57.9	41.0
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2
Peugeot 104 2R	38.5	58.2	42.2

It will be seen that the figures are lower and, perhaps closer to what a motorist will actually get. The positions of the models are almost the same, except that the Visa moves above the Suzuki and Peugeot.

On both weightings the Samba's lead in the urban cycle gives it an overall advantage, and since a small car is likely to spend a good proportion of its time making short journeys in traffic, Talbot can reasonably claim to have Europe's economy champion. But for how long is another matter.

The official fuel consumption figures present a confusing picture, suggesting that the revised car is more economical at steady speeds but thirstier in town. The urban cycle reading is a modest 74.4mpg, but it is based on a 1000m test, while my touring figure was 40mpg, an excellent return for a sports car.

The handling of the Scirocco has not changed and had no need to. The car feels very taut and responsive, almost neutrally and with virtually no roll and has superb roadholding. The steering, light enough when the car is on the move, is, however, heavy and lowered for parking and the low gear is a little stiff. It is often jibs at going into first and reverse and the narrow gear means that fifth can be engaged instead of third.

The ride is very firm, in the German manner, but well controlled, although bumps in the road are felt there is no crashing or wallow. The seats are also firm, not to say hard. They are well shaped, give good support and can be adjusted for height as well as rake and reach.

Accommodation is still strictly two-plus-two, which means that the rear seats are best reserved for children. According to the manufacturer, the Scirocco is a little awkward unless the front seats are pushed fully forward. The bigger boot is useful, though its width is restricted by the wheel arches and it has a high lip.

At 27.3, the GTI is expensive when set against rivals like the Ford Capri or Renault Fuego and for that price it is surprising to discover that the radio is an extra. But the car gives an enormous amount of driving pleasure, and not at the expense of fuel consumption.

To cater for different tastes, Volkswagen has reorganised the Scirocco range

into three main models: the base model, the GTI, and the VR6. The base model is the most economical, the GTI is the most powerful, and the VR6 is the most expensive. The VR6 has a six-cylinder engine and is the most powerful of the three.

Last trophy from Lancia

Nick Shelton and Graham Fletcher, who have given up their chances of competing in the 1984 Olympic games after relinquishing their amateur status, will be among the challengers for the top prize at the final Lancia Trophy meeting at Park Farm, Middlesex, tomorrow.

After two years, the sponsors are retiring, so this will be the last chance for the favourite, David Brown, to add another of his vehicles to the six he has already won.

The car goes to the rider with the highest placing in two events, the Trophy and the Lancia Silver Lance. There is also £6,000 in prize money, including £1,400 to the trophy winner.

Deleón batters Camel to defeat

Atlantic City, New Jersey, Feb. 24. Carlos Deleón of Puerto Rico retained his world Boxing Council (WBC) cruiserweight title tonight when he battered the former champion Marvin Camel into a seventh round defeat.

The ring physician stopped the contest because of a cut over Camel's right eye. It was Deleón's first defence of the title he took from Camel in November 1980.

The former WBA heavyweight champion Leon Spinks, boxing for the first time as a cruiserweight, outpointed Ivy Brown. — Reuters.

WG want to be hosts

Dortmund, Feb. 24. — West German Olympic Committee president Willi Dege, president of the West German National Olympic Committee (NOC), said today that the decision at today's executive session of the committee, to host the 1992 Winter Olympics.

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